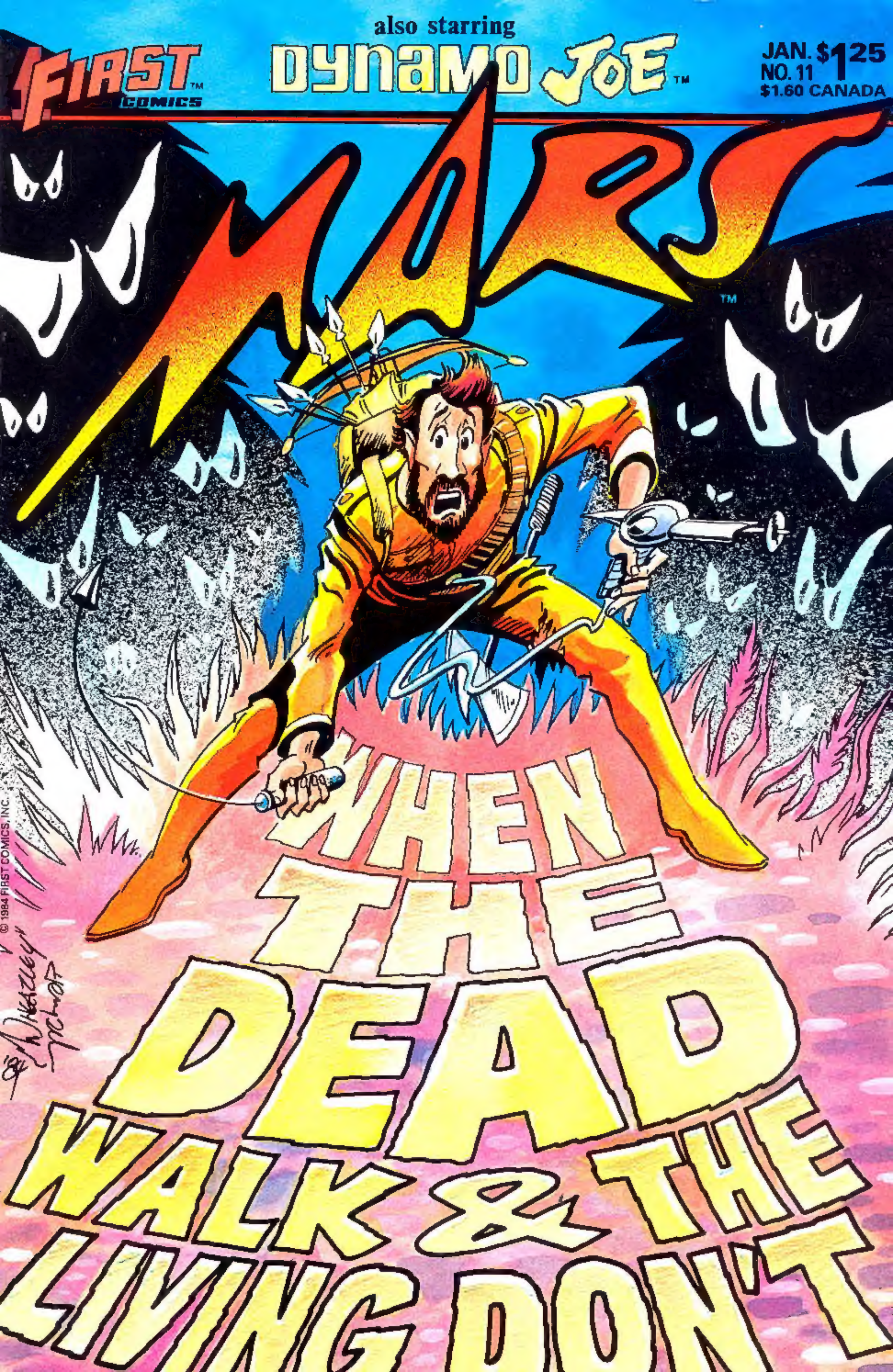




also starring

DYNAMO JOE™

JAN. \$1.25
NO. 11
\$1.60 CANADA

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Whazley
1/11/84

READ LETTERS

FIRST COMICS,
1014 DAVIS STREET, EVANSTON, ILLINOIS 60201

Dear Marc/k/iike,

Surprisingly enough, there's not a whole lot to say about Mars #8 (at least, not from this source). It was a surprisingly (there's that word again!) straightforward story, a race against time and ignorance to ensure (or prolong) the survival of our intrepid band. It showed the range of human emotions that can come to the fore under pressure, from despair to determination, from calmness (whether coupled with action or inaction) to frenzy (whether purposeless or harnessed to a possible solution).

It showed us something of the essentials of humankind. Even though it took place on another planet in another time, fighting an alien menace and surrounded by "inhuman creatures," still these were recognizable humans: diverse, determined, scared, innovative, committed, practical — and more.

As for the Mystery of Mars (as I have come to think of it), several intriguing clues were offered, more confusing information was added. Let's hope the Mystery does not turn out to be like a set of "Chinese Boxes," each box containing another, smaller one until the last contains simply . . . nothing.

"T.M. Maple"

Box 1272, Station B
Weston, Ontario M9L 2R9
Canada

I guess you'll find out next issue, T. I have to admit that, now that we're on a bi-monthly schedule, I can actually take your advice: Mars #12 could be printed on successively smaller sheets of paper, with the last page . . . simply blank. But it won't; your confusion will be supplanted by Wisdom.

Dear Mike and Company,

I haven't written to Mars since my first preview photocopy. I haven't written because it was clear to me from the first issue that Morgana Trace was going to be a major hit. You knew it. I knew it. Your fan letters have proven it. Like E-Man, to which I write regularly, you can beat a dead horse with praise, too.

So the purpose of this note is to tell you how much I enjoy the Black Flame stories that appeared in issues #7 and #8 of Mars. Soon you will be hip-deep in letters demanding that Black Flame appears in his own series. Perhaps B.F. will spin-off to his own series the way Grimjack did (congratulations) but if it doesn't, it will have earned a place in comic book history as the best comic series back-up feature since Michael Mauser slipped into the back of Charlton's Vengeance Squad.

First Comics has always given us new directions for our imaginations. Your Black Flame series shows that comics can be fun and intelligent. And entertaining. And popular.

T.E. Pouncey

Wichita, Kansas 67204

Well, the Black Flame now appears in the back pages of Starslayer, but he's getting a little more space: The feature now runs 10 pages each issue. Right now, the only thing holding B.F. back is penciller Tom Sutton's extremely busy schedule.

But we're real curious about your opinion of Dynamo Joe, T.E. The reaction to the photocopies we passed around this summer's comic conventions has been fantastic, so don't be too surprised if you see D.J. spinning-off any day now.

What's this about beating a dead horse with praise?

Dear Mr. Gold,

Mars #8 is not only the Black Flame's last issue, but mine as well.

Why? Well, you might think it's because of the art, but it's not. I like it. It's just that I'm one of those low-brow readers who like stories with beginnings, middles, and ends. Stories with clear plotting, reasons for things happening, and characters whose motivations are explained. In short, everything that revolutionary alternate comics are above and beyond.

The Mars panel at last year's Chicago Comicon had me looking forward to this series very, very much. I've enjoyed most of First's line, and indeed the first two issues of Mars had me enthralled. But by #3 Hempel and Wheatley were still weaving in mysteries and new characters with no explanations to come for quite some time! The "Talking Dinosaurs" and "WWI" storylines have totally lost me!

Now I have nothing against sub-plots, but I expect them to be resolved at some time. With Mars going bi-monthly, it'll now take years before readers have any answers to the hundreds of questions in this series! I'm sorry but I can't enjoy a story unless I know what's going on.

Fact is, the last few issues I've bought just for the Black Flame.

John P. Parrish III

25428 Peter Kaltz Street
Warren, MI 48091

It would be silly of me to think that somebody should buy a comic book solely because of its back-up story, but I think it's a shame you've missed out on the first Dynamo Joe story, John. If we spin the feature off and you buy the book

— and like it — you'll just have to go back and pick up Mars #10 at premium prices.

Still, there's a whole lot on the stands and you've got to make your choices. Sorry we couldn't connect.



NEXT ISSUE: Questions answered (well, most of them) and even a major storyline resolved in "Circuit Death!" courtesy of Mark Wheatley and Mark Hempel.

And while we're in a "bring-it-all-home" mood, Doug Rice and John Ostrander will be offering you the senses-reeling conclusion to the very first Dynamo Joe story!

See you in two months!

— Mike Gold

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AFTER THE WAR...

...THERE WERE NO
WINNERS OR LOSERS...

...ONLY THE
LIVING AND
THE DEAD.



EXCEPT FOR ONE BATTERED BODY...

...MILOS!



"THE FIRST
MOMENT
OF MY DEATH
WAS
ANTICIPATION."



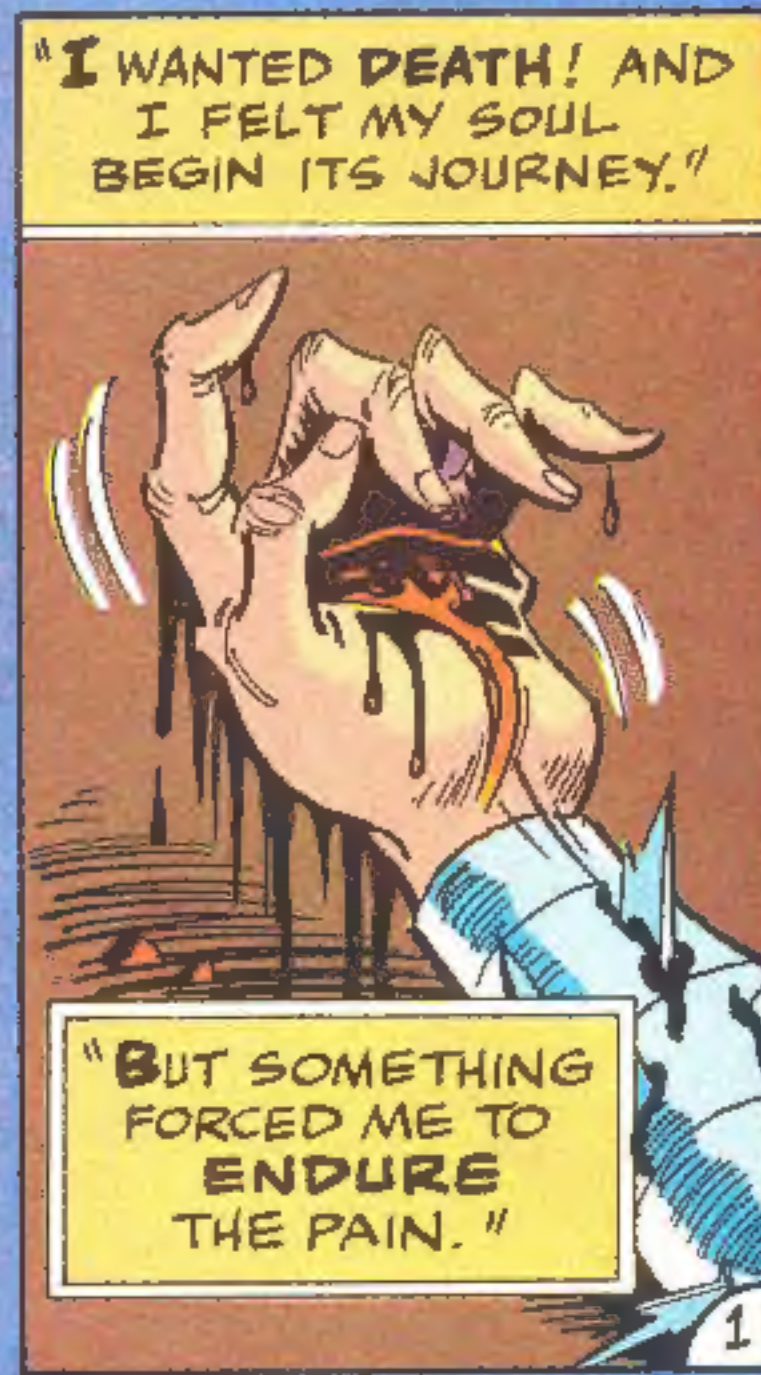
"IN THE SECOND
MOMENT I FELT
THE IMPACT
OF THE BOMB."

"I WAS AFRAID
OF THE PAIN."



"I REMEMBERED
THE SCREAMS
OF THE
CREATURES I
HAD KILLED."

"SURELY THERE
WOULD BE PAIN!"



"I WANTED DEATH! AND
I FELT MY SOUL
BEGIN ITS JOURNEY."

"BUT SOMETHING
FORCED ME TO
ENDURE
THE PAIN."

WHEN THE DEAD WALK...

ARRGH!

THE PAIN!
OH GOD---
PLEASE!

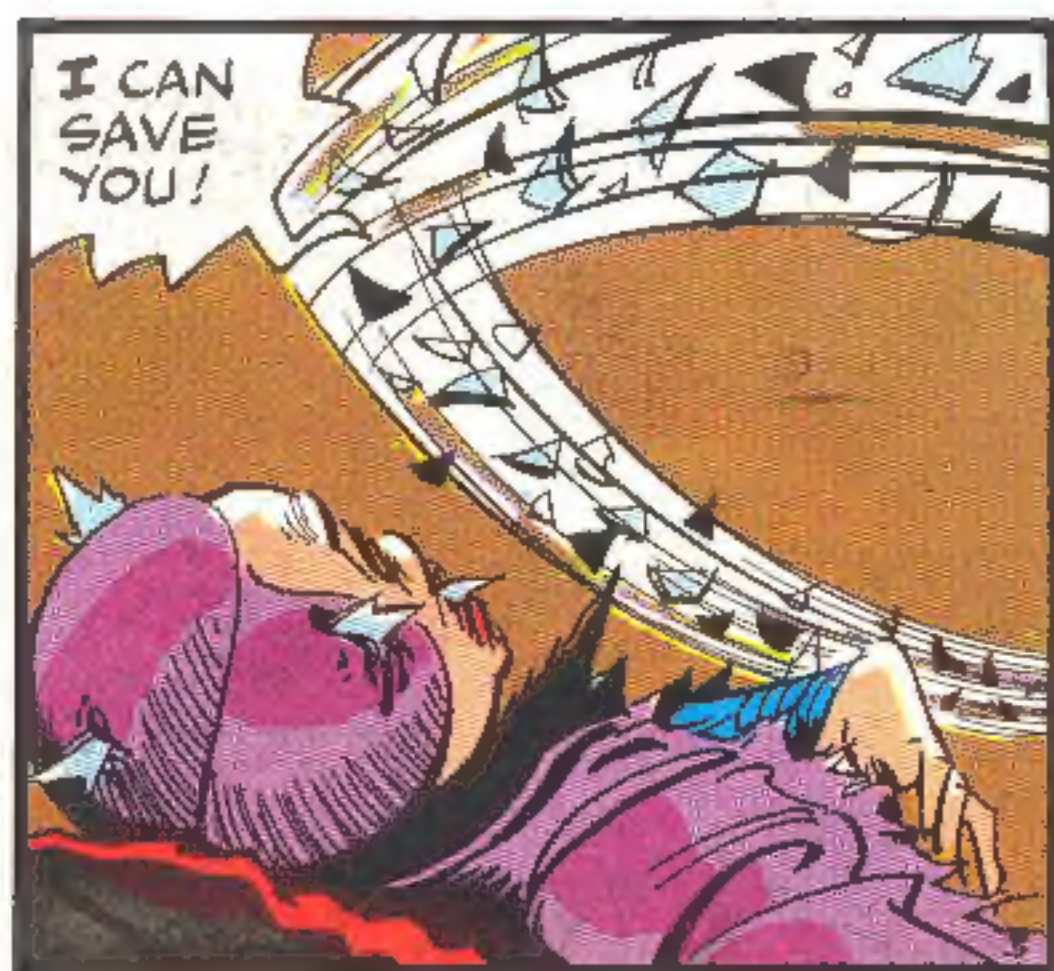
SET ME FREE!
I FEEL NO
LIFE WITHIN
ME...
ONLY
PAIN!

CAN
YOU NOT
FORGIVE ME
MY SINS?!

WHAT WILL
RELEASE
ME FROM
THIS
PAIN?

...AND THE LIVING DON'T

by MARK WHEATLEY and MARC HEMPEL
LETTERING AND COLORING ASSISTED BY KATHRYN MAYER
EDITED BY MIKE GOLD



I CAN
SAVE
YOU!



ONLY...



...FIRST...



YOU MUST AGREE
TO DELIVER
MORGANA TO ME!



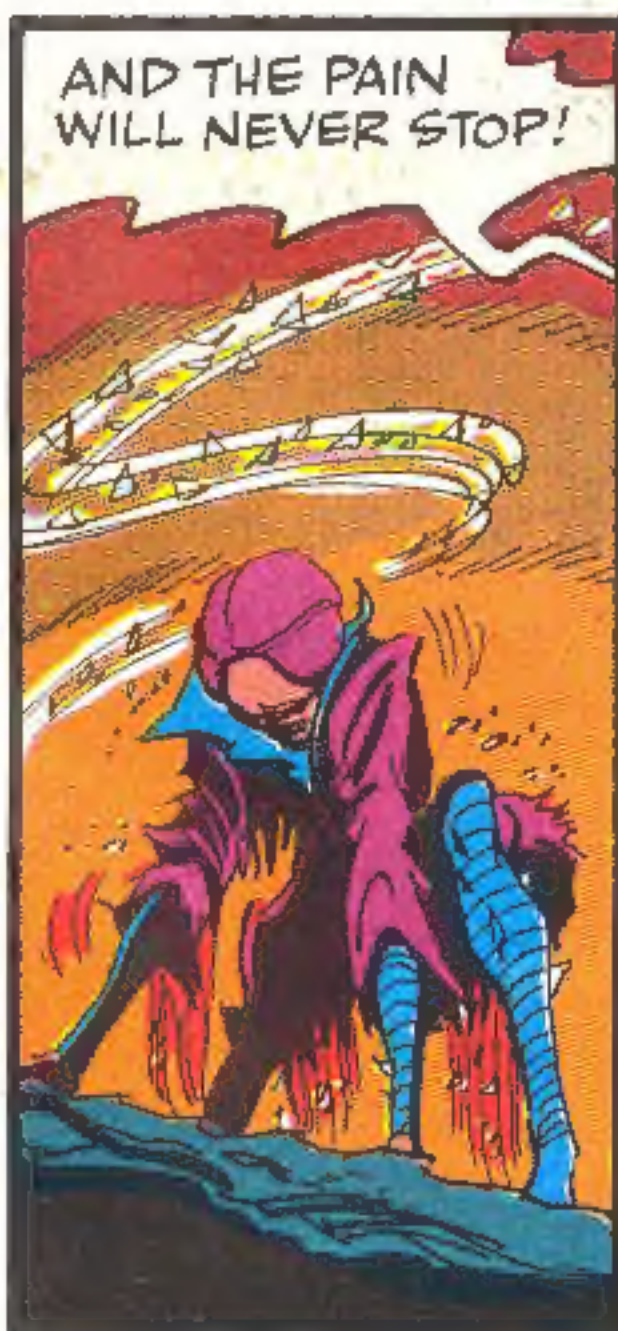
I AM DEAD!
WHAT CAN I DO?

SOMETHING FOR
SOMETHING, MILOS!

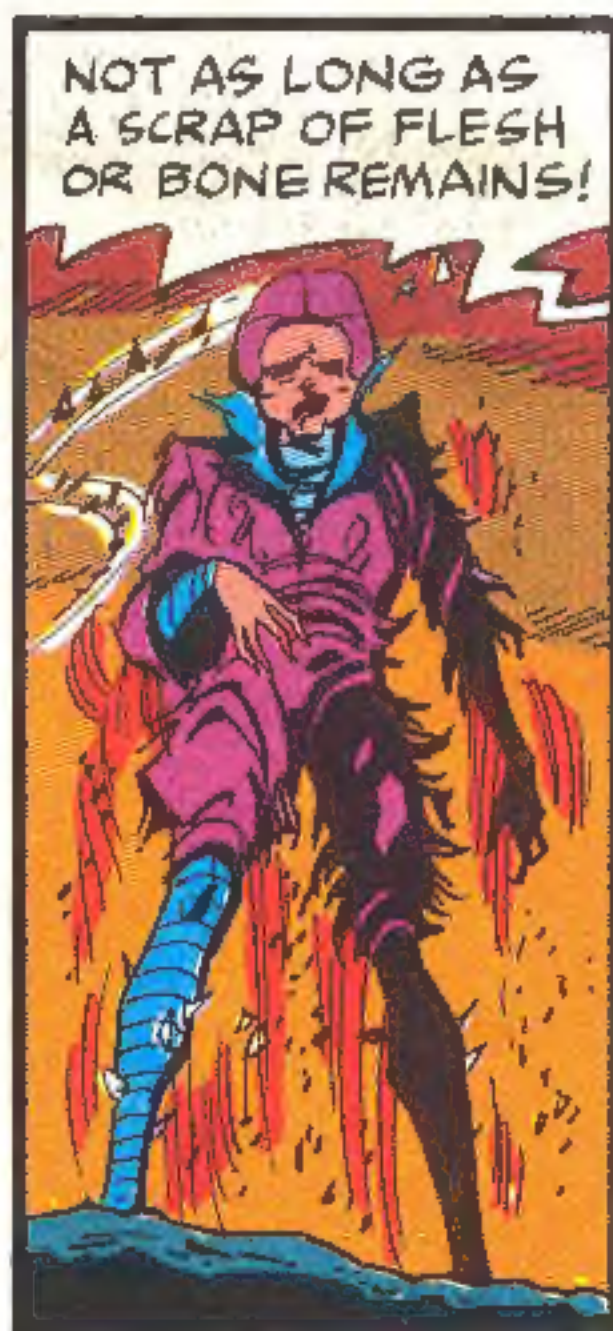


UNTIL YOU AGREE, YOU'LL
STAY IN THAT BODY AS
IT BECOMES MORE
AND MORE DECAYED.

AND
WHAT YOU HAVE
IS NOT LIFE --
ONLY PAIN!



AND THE PAIN
WILL NEVER STOP!

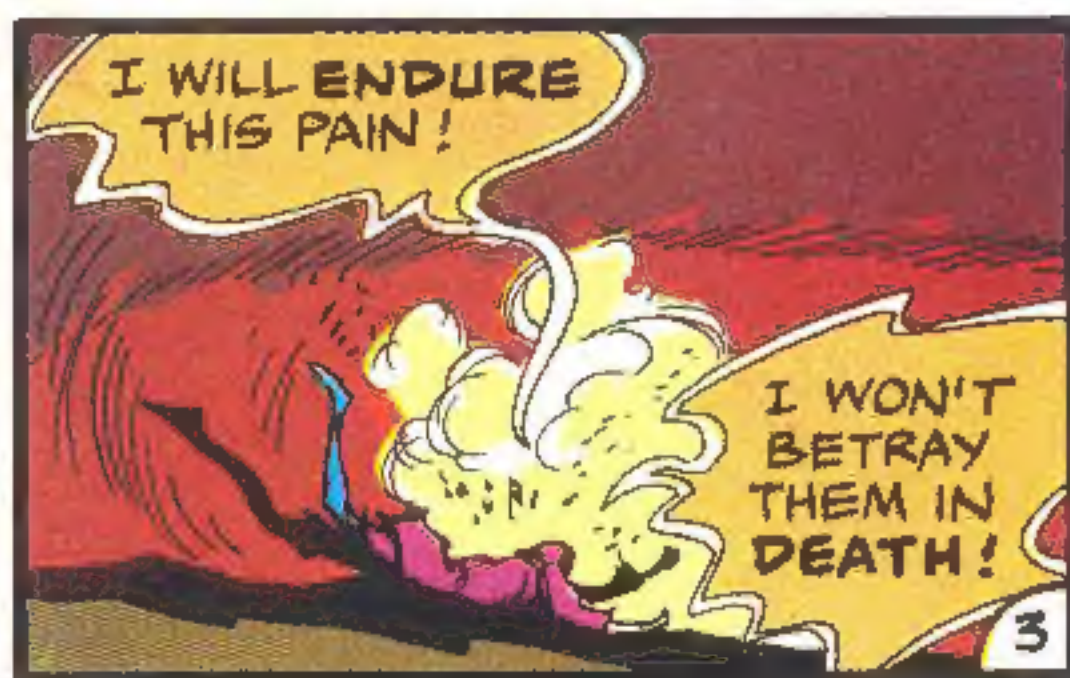


NOT AS LONG AS
A SCRAP OF FLESH
OR BONE REMAINS!



I FAILED MY
FAITH IN LIFE...

... I
BETRAYED
MY
FRIENDS!



I WILL ENDURE
THIS PAIN!

I WON'T
BETRAY
THEM IN
DEATH!



"GOOD! NOW WATCH AND FOLLOW THE ACTIONS OF YOUR OLD FRIENDS -- PERHAPS THEY WILL LEAD US TO MORGANA!"



IT'S NOT LIKE WE DON'T KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON.

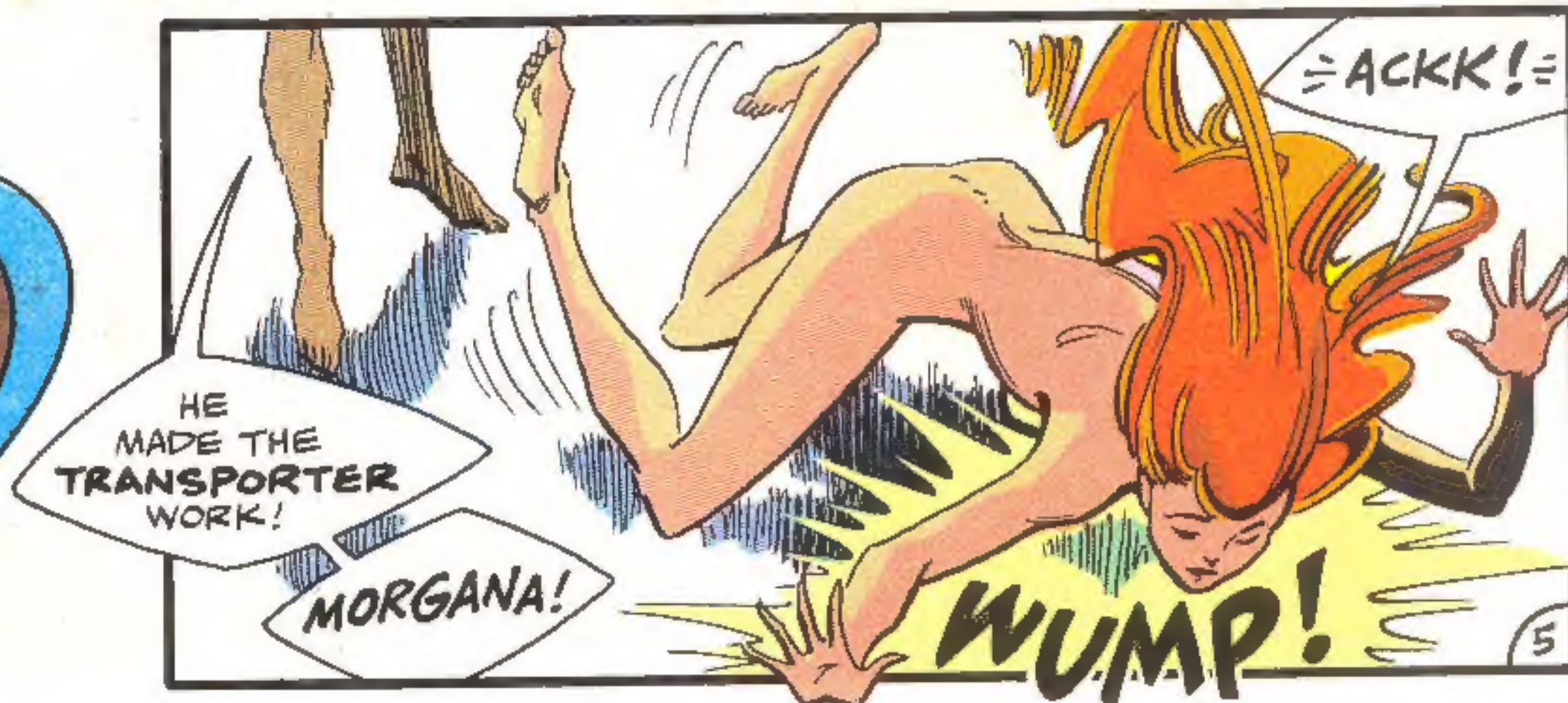
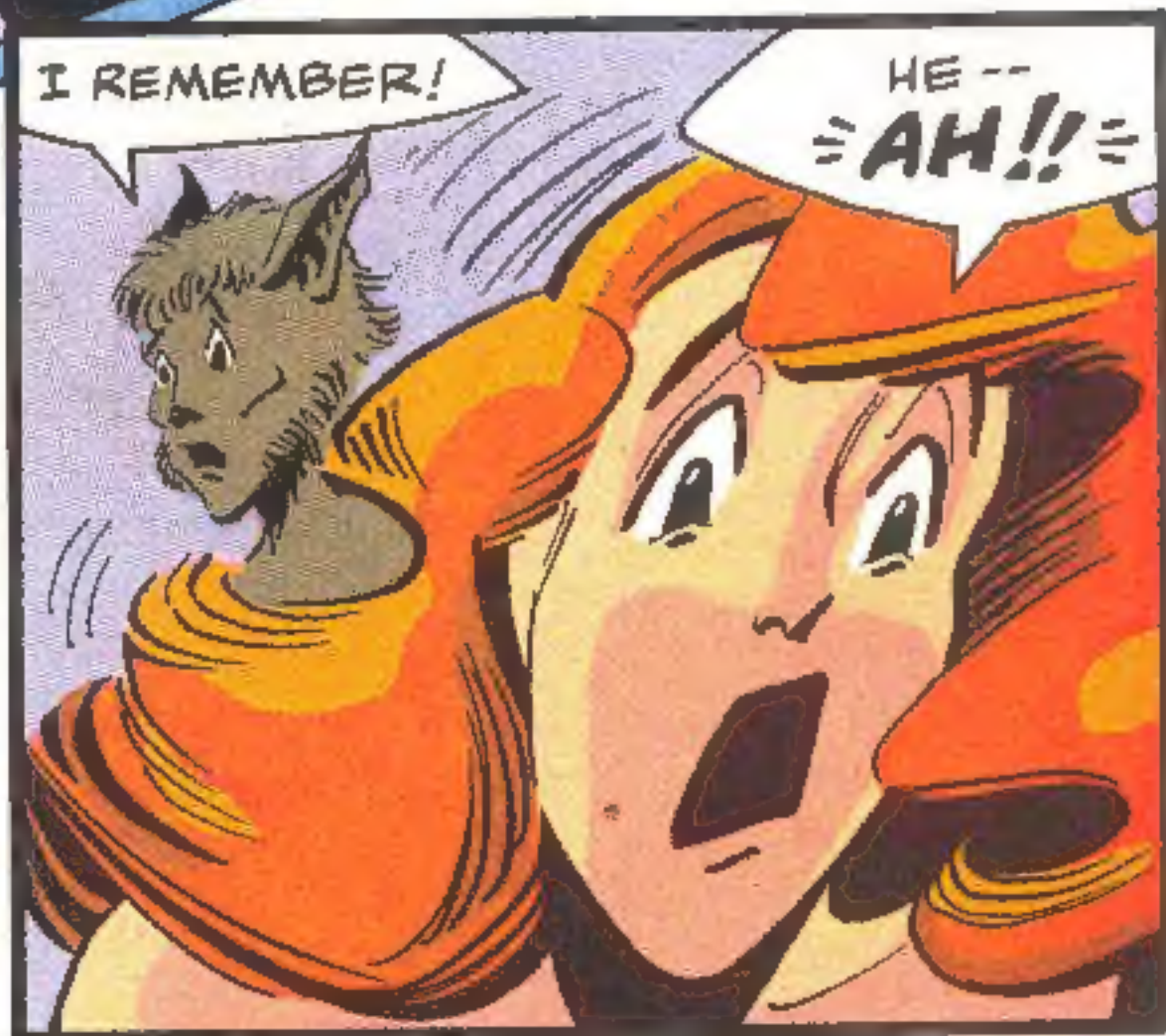
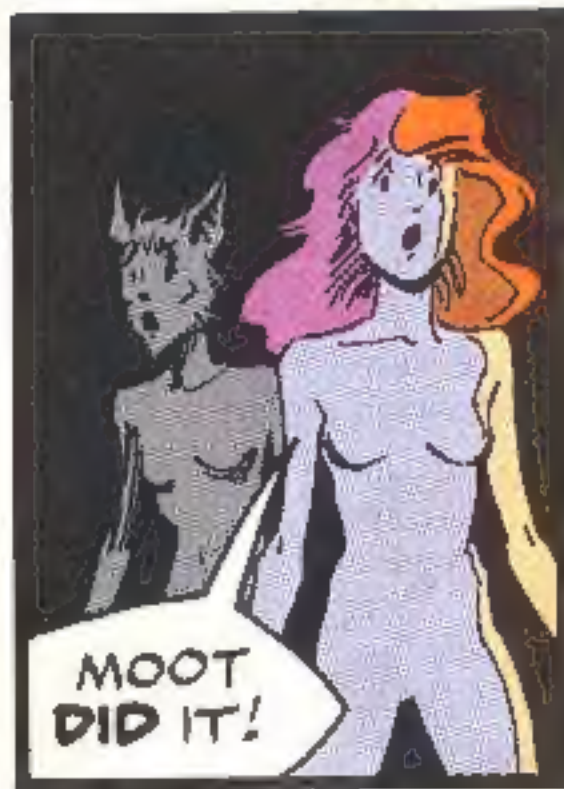
YES! SHE LEFT A TRAIL!

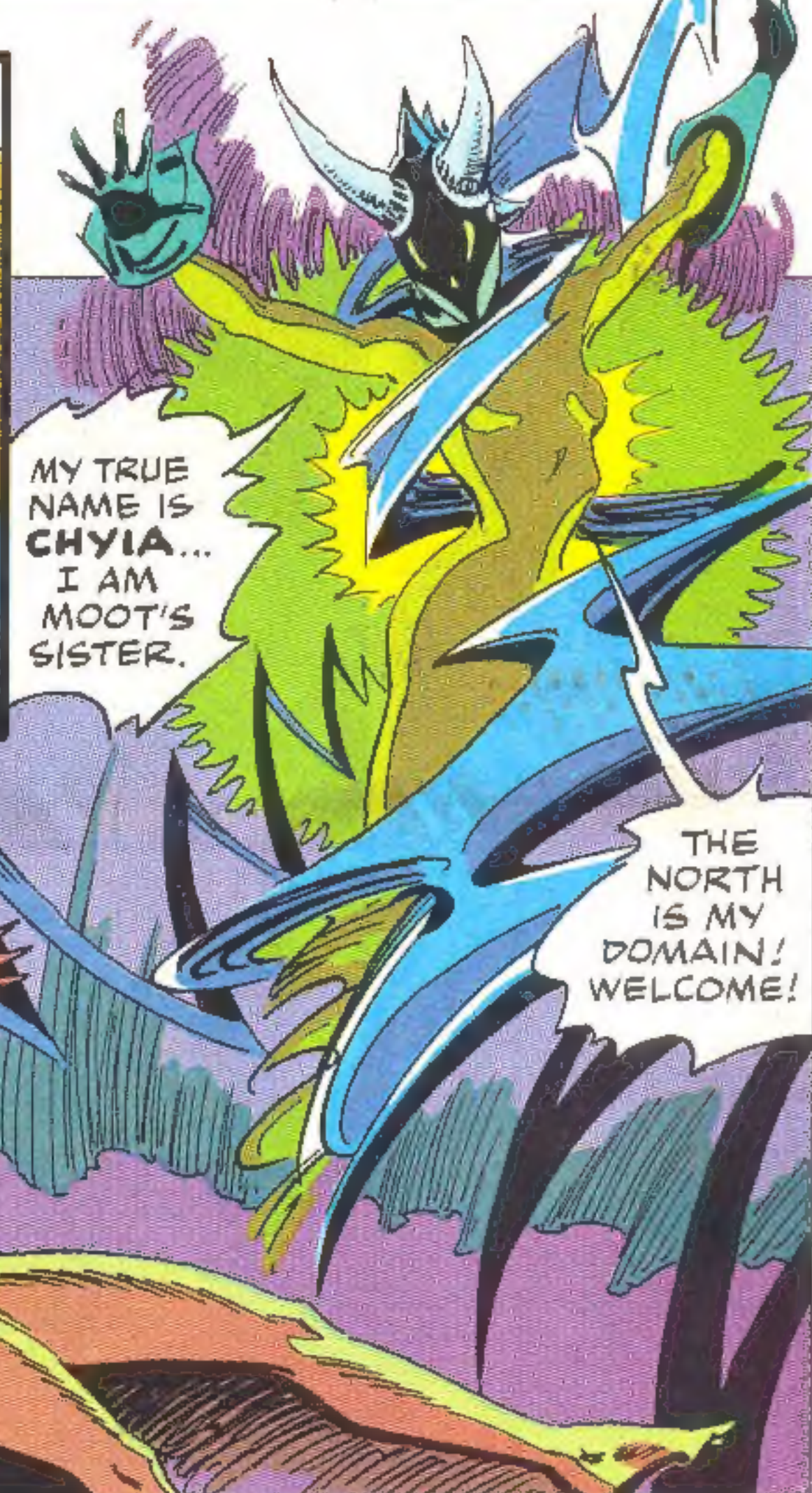
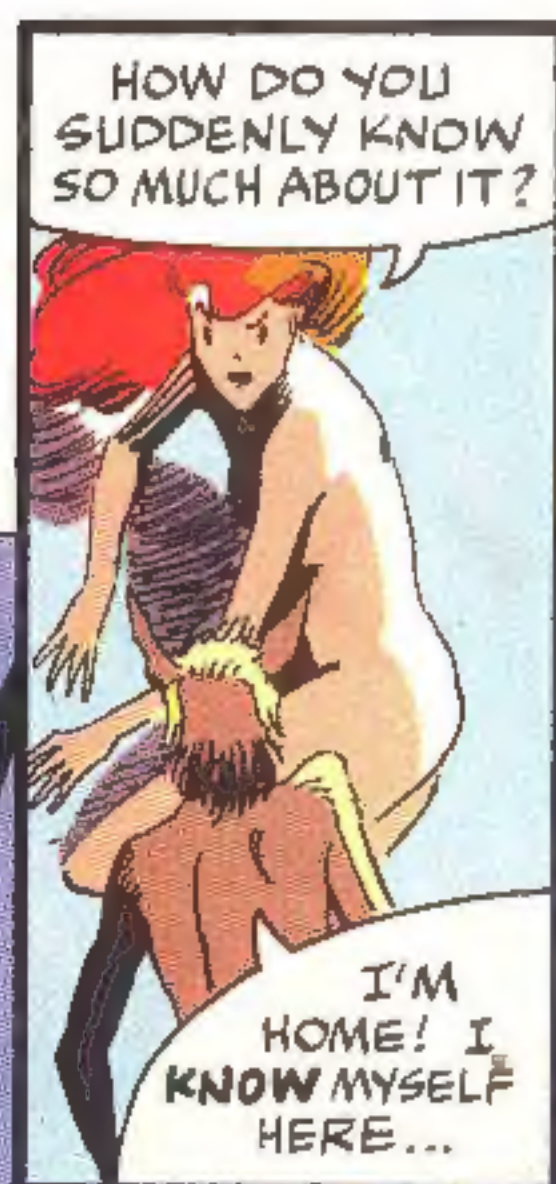
ALDO AND I ARE SURE FAWN TOOK HER.

I'LL ALLOW THIS ONLY IF YOU'LL BRING BACK YOUR SAFECASES FROM THE NORTH STORAGE BUNKER.

AND GUYS--WE NEED YOU BACK, TOO.





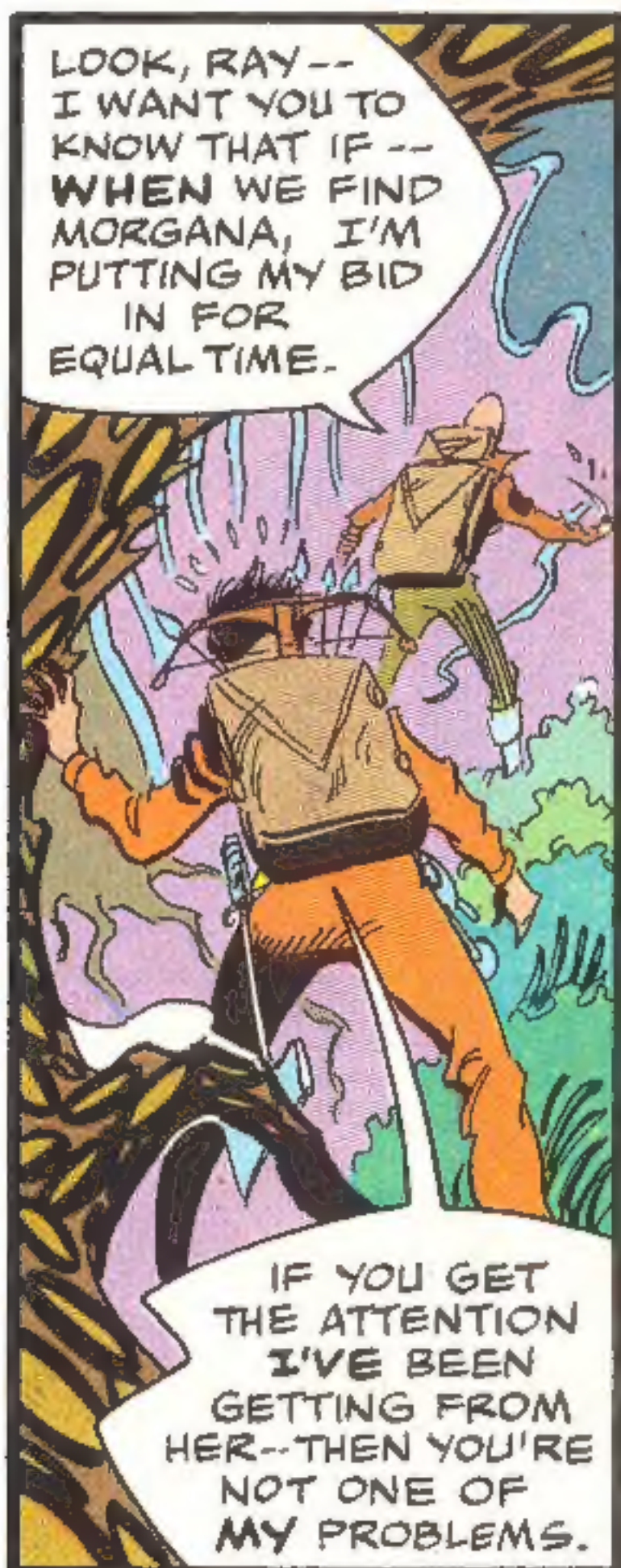




RAY-- I KNOW WE'VE
BEEN WALKING FOR
OVER A WEEK-- BUT
**PLEASE TRY TO
KEEP UP.**

LAY OFF,
CAL! YOU KNOW
MY PACK'S HEAVY
WITH ALL THESE
WEAPONS!

WEAPONS!
YEAH-- YOU'RE
A WALKING
ARSENAL!



LOOK, RAY--
I WANT YOU TO
KNOW THAT IF --
**WHEN WE FIND
MORGANA, I'M
PUTTING MY BID
IN FOR
EQUAL TIME.**

IF YOU GET
THE ATTENTION
**I'VE BEEN
GETTING FROM
HER-- THEN YOU'RE
NOT ONE OF
MY PROBLEMS.**



I'M NOT
SURE WHY--
BUT SHE'S
MESSED
UP WHEN
IT COMES
TO
SEX.

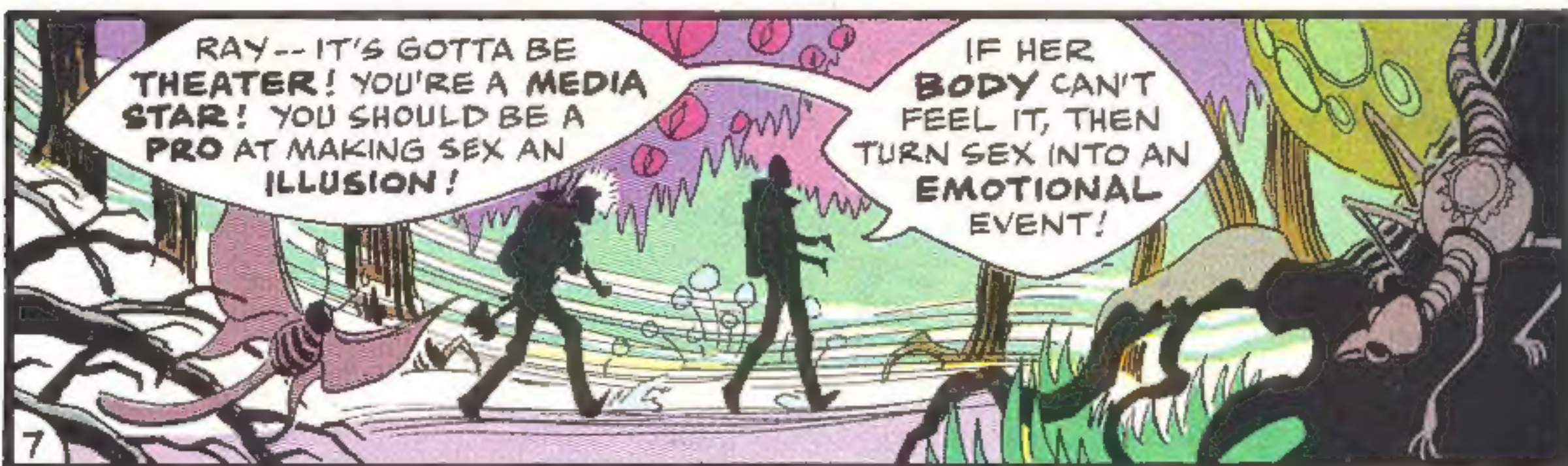
WELL --
SHE'S AN
L1 LESION.
SEX ISN'T GONNA
FEEL LIKE MUCH
TO HER.



YEAH --
SHE'S SAID
SOMETHING
ABOUT THAT.

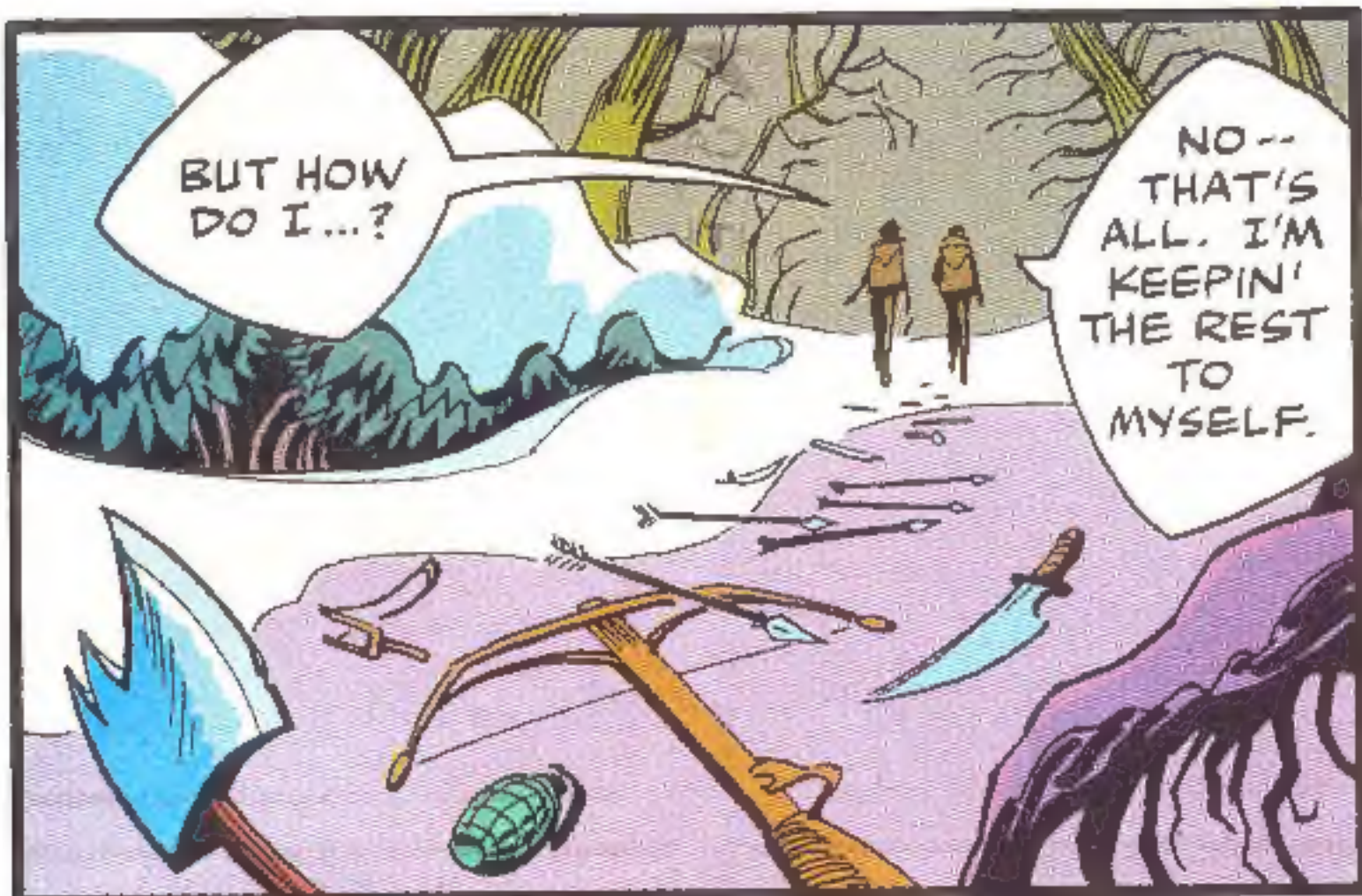
BUT WHAT
AM I
SUPPOSED
TO DO? CHEW
ON **SALT
PETER?**

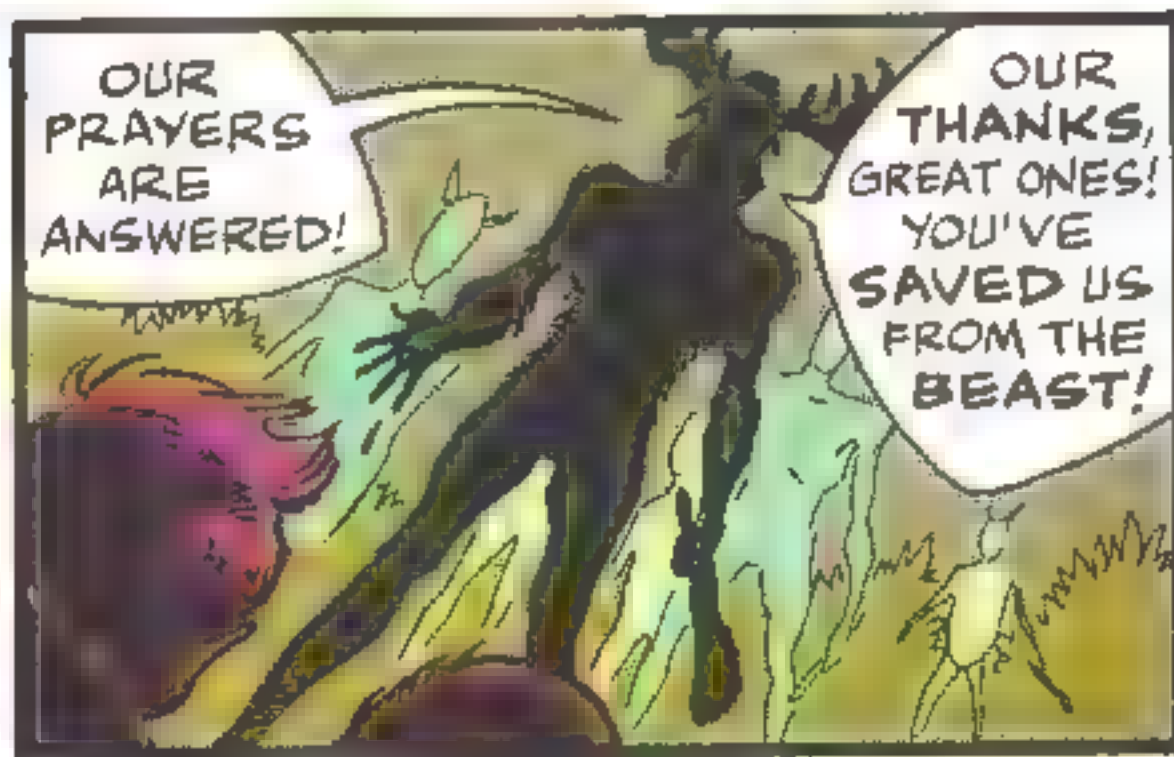
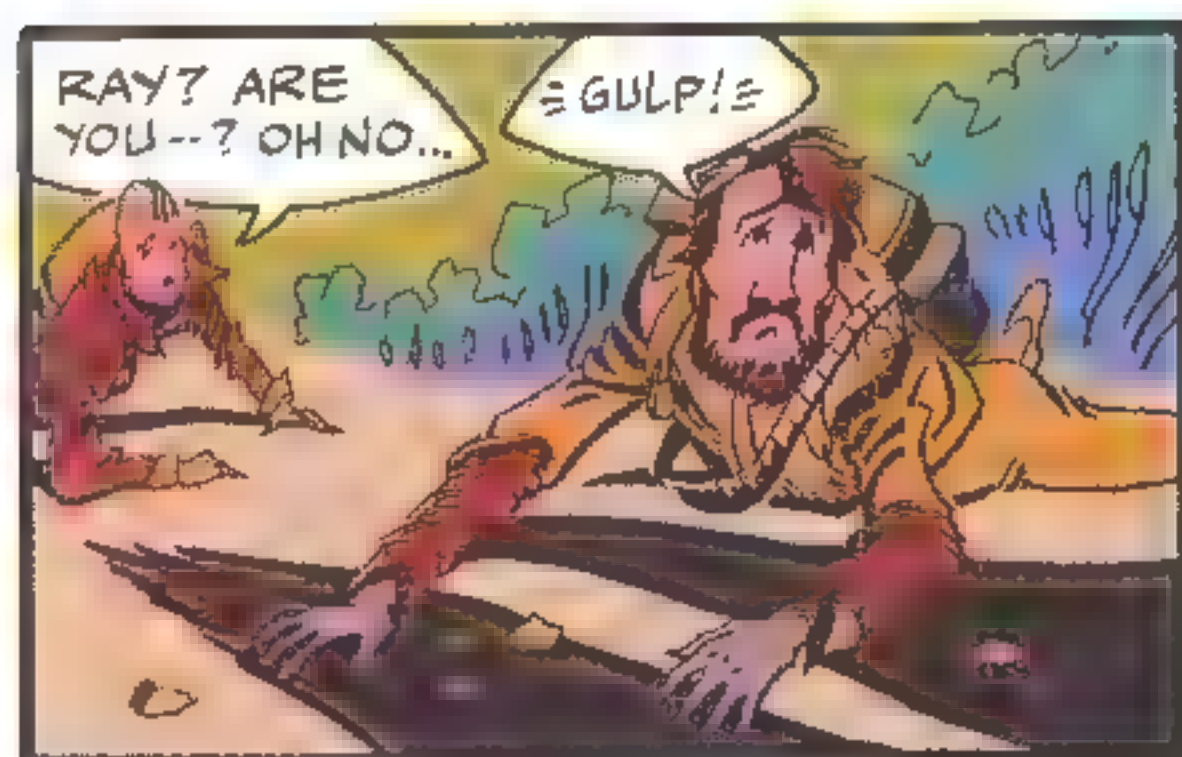
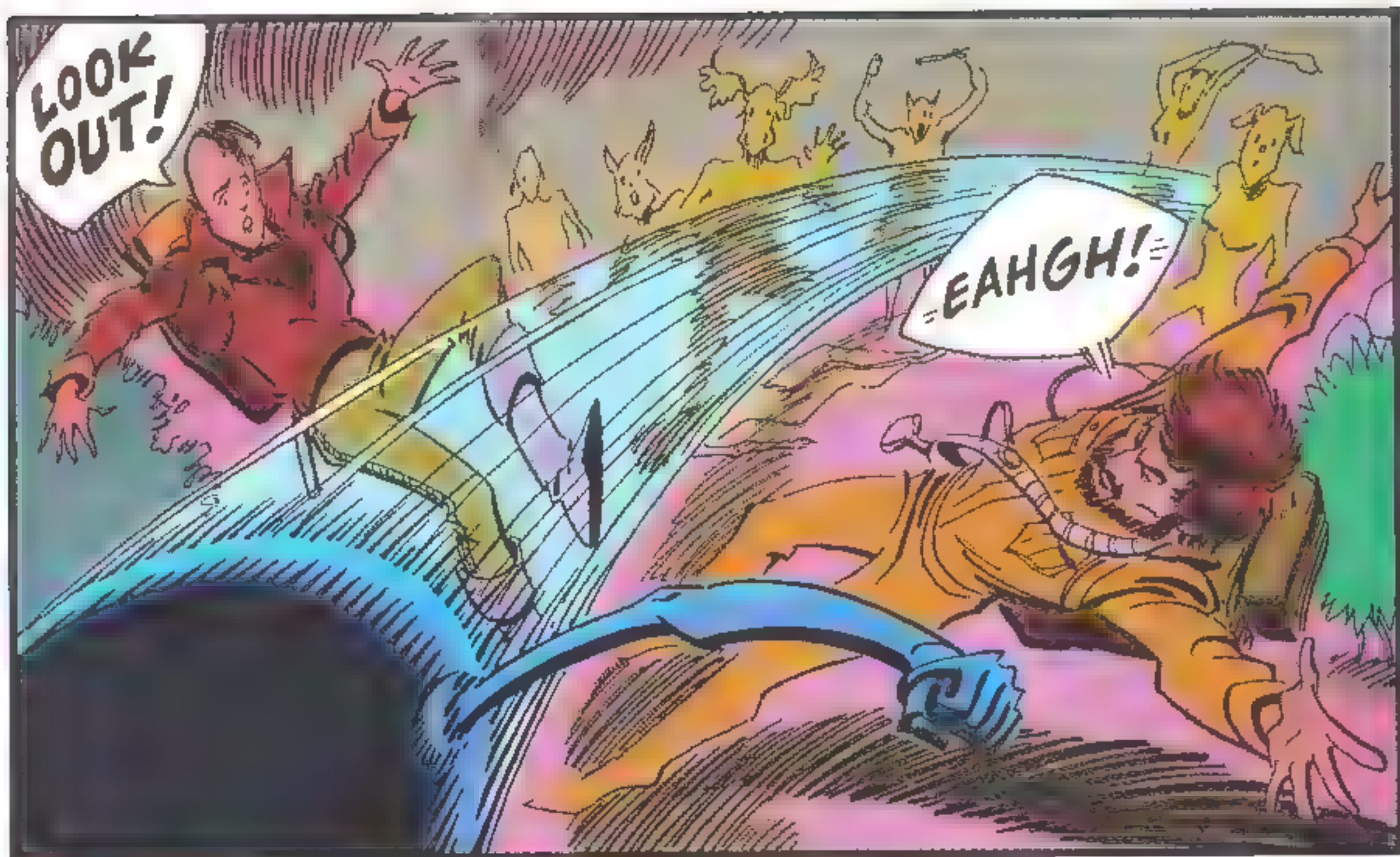
IF YOU
CAN'T SEE THE
SOLUTION,
MAYBE YOU
SHOULD!

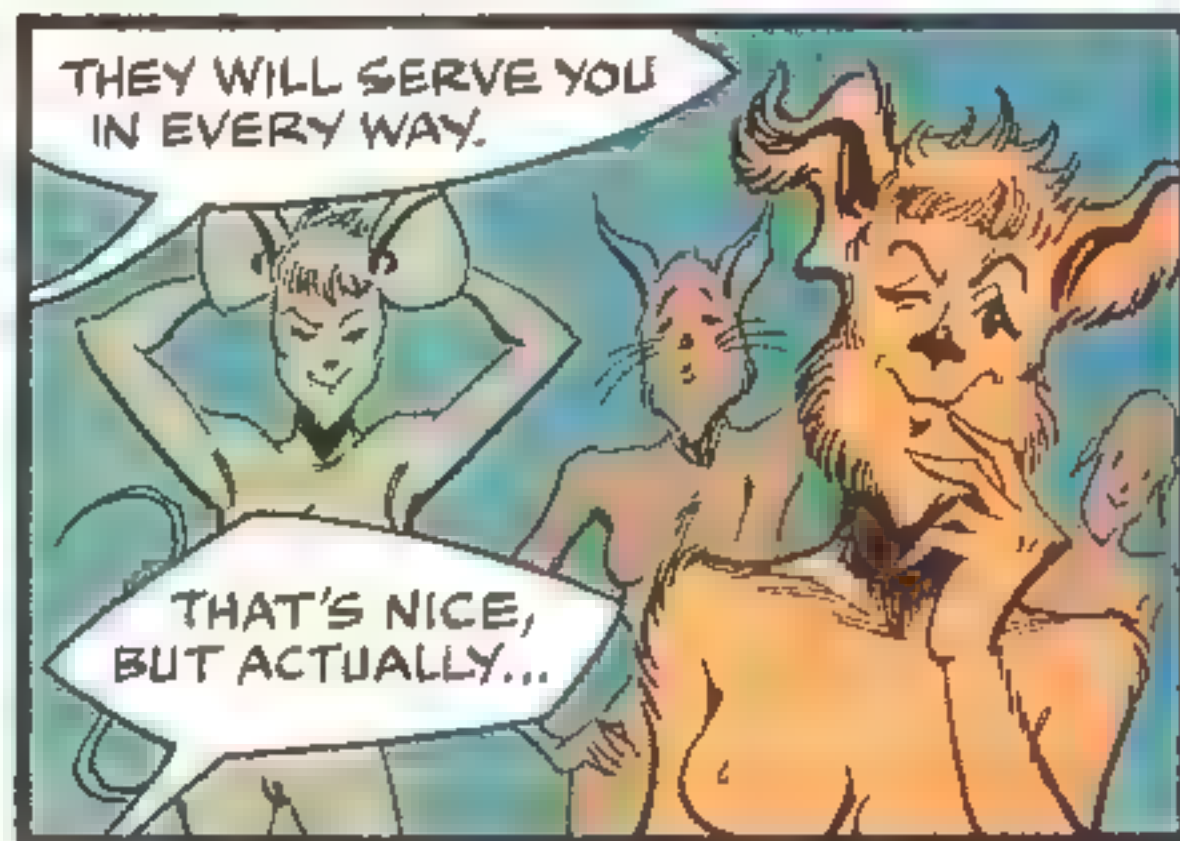
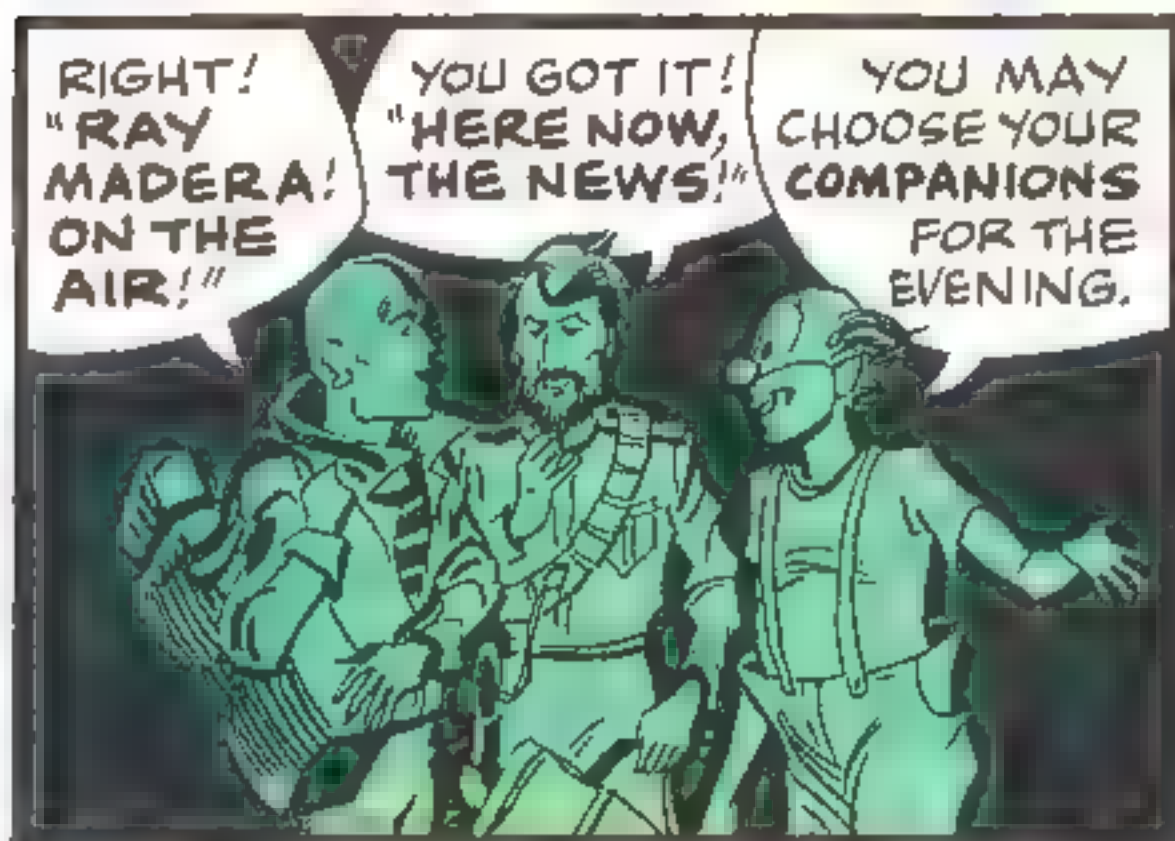


RAY-- IT'S GOTTA BE
**THEATER! YOU'RE A MEDIA
STAR! YOU SHOULD BE A
PRO AT MAKING SEX AN
ILLUSION!**

IF HER
BODY CAN'T
FEEL IT, THEN
TURN SEX INTO AN
**EMOTIONAL
EVENT!**







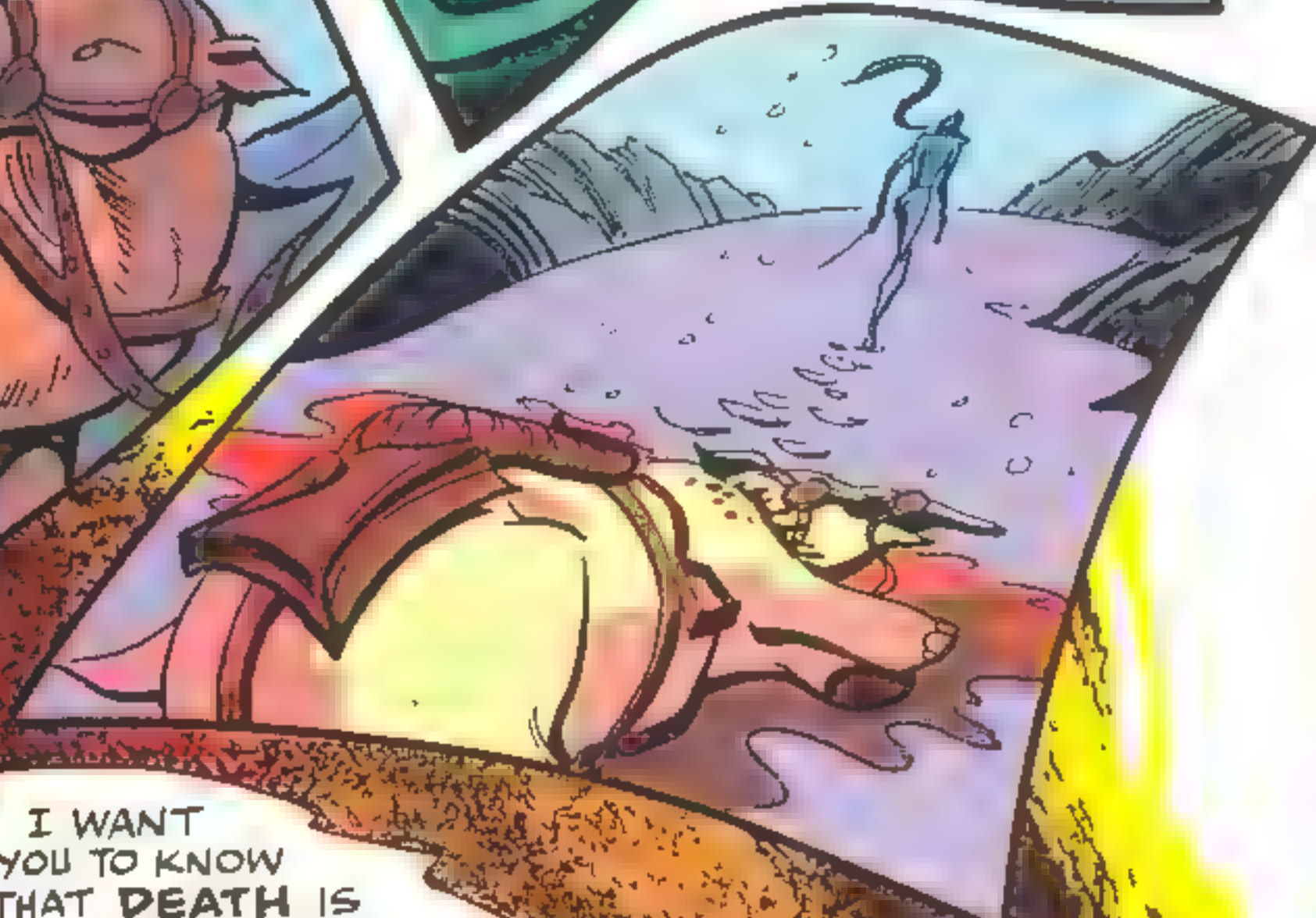
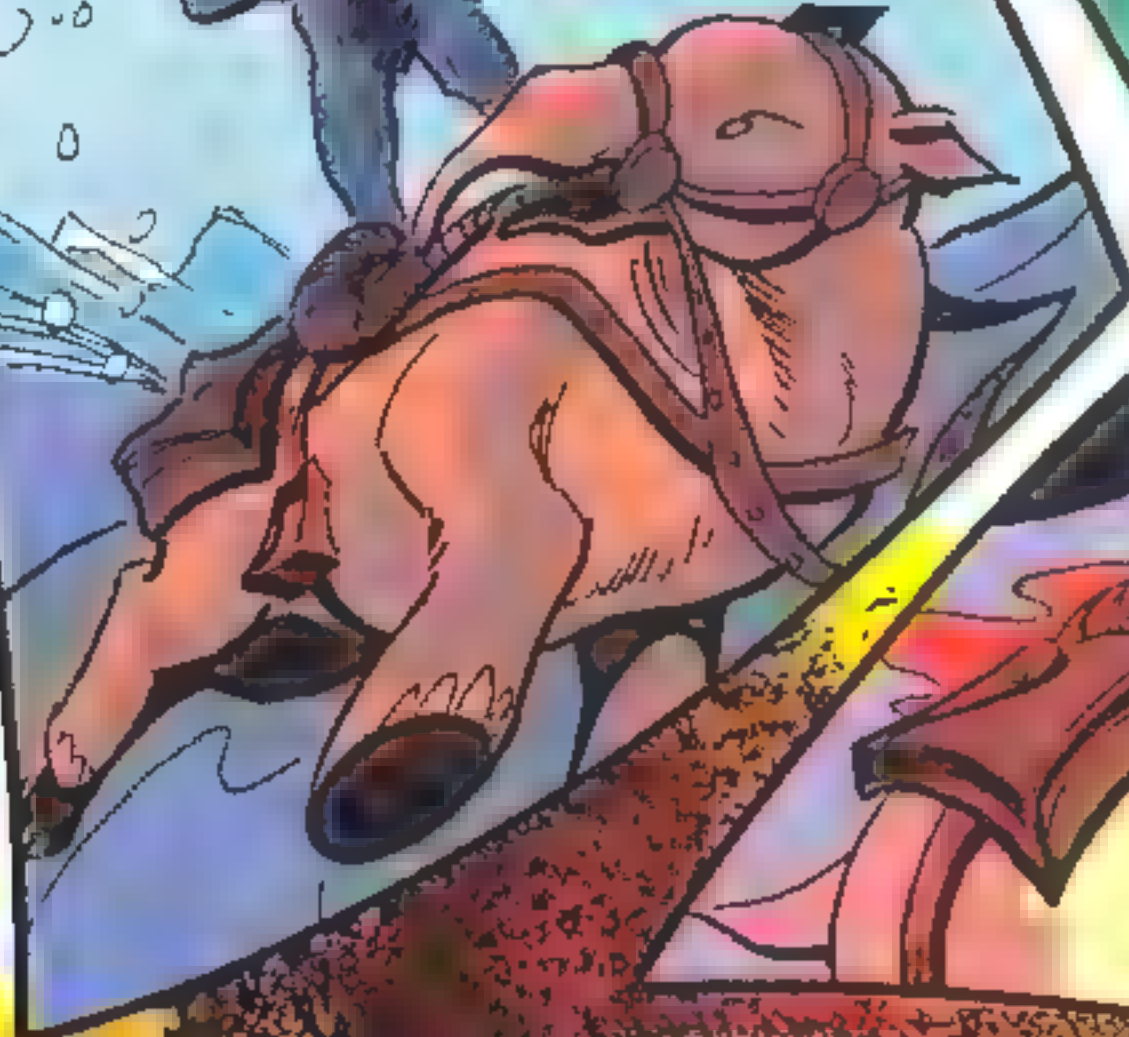
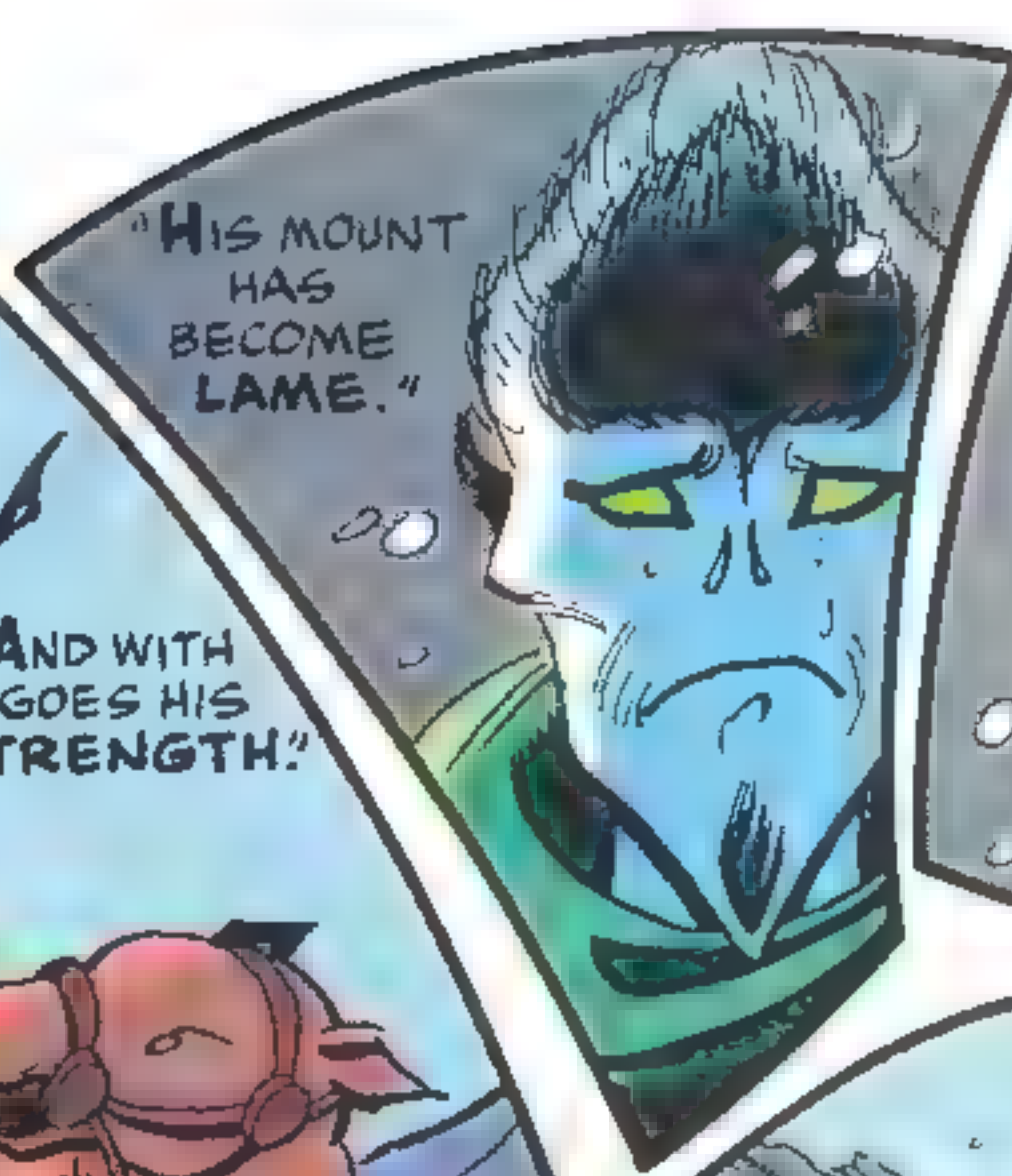
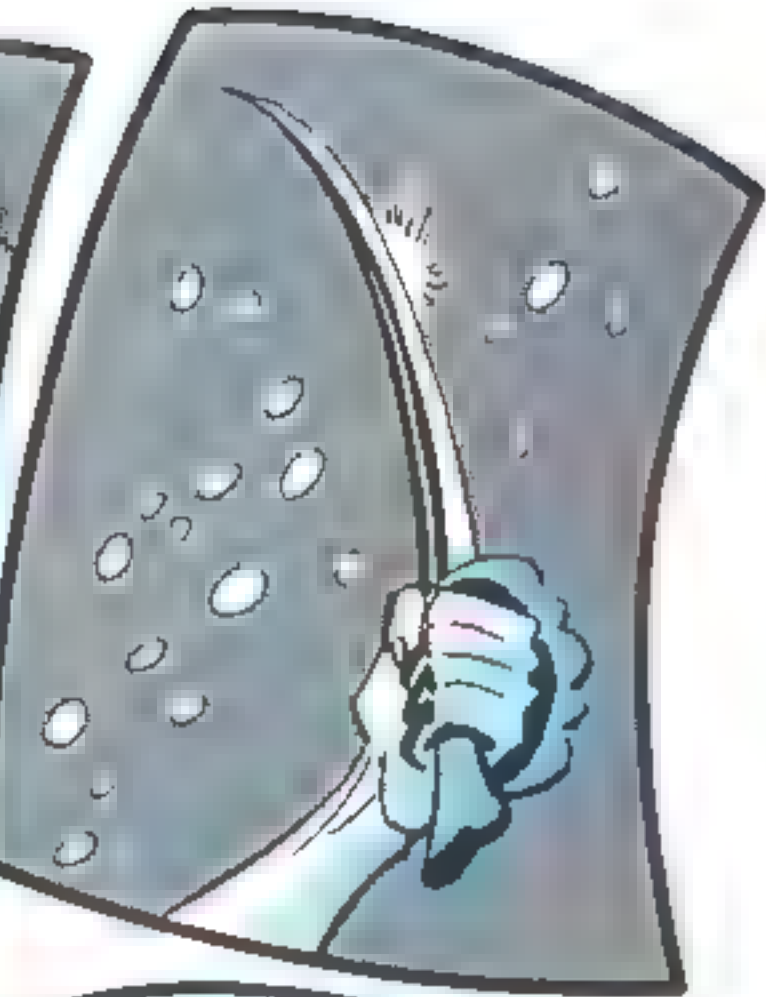
"LOOK UPON
YOUR DISCIPLE,
MILOS..."

"HIS LOYALTY HAS
COST HIM MUCH.

HIS
FOOD
IS
GONE...

...AND WITH
IT GOES HIS
STRENGTH!"

"HIS MOUNT
HAS
BECOME
LAME."



WHY ARE
YOU SHOWING
ME ALL
THIS?

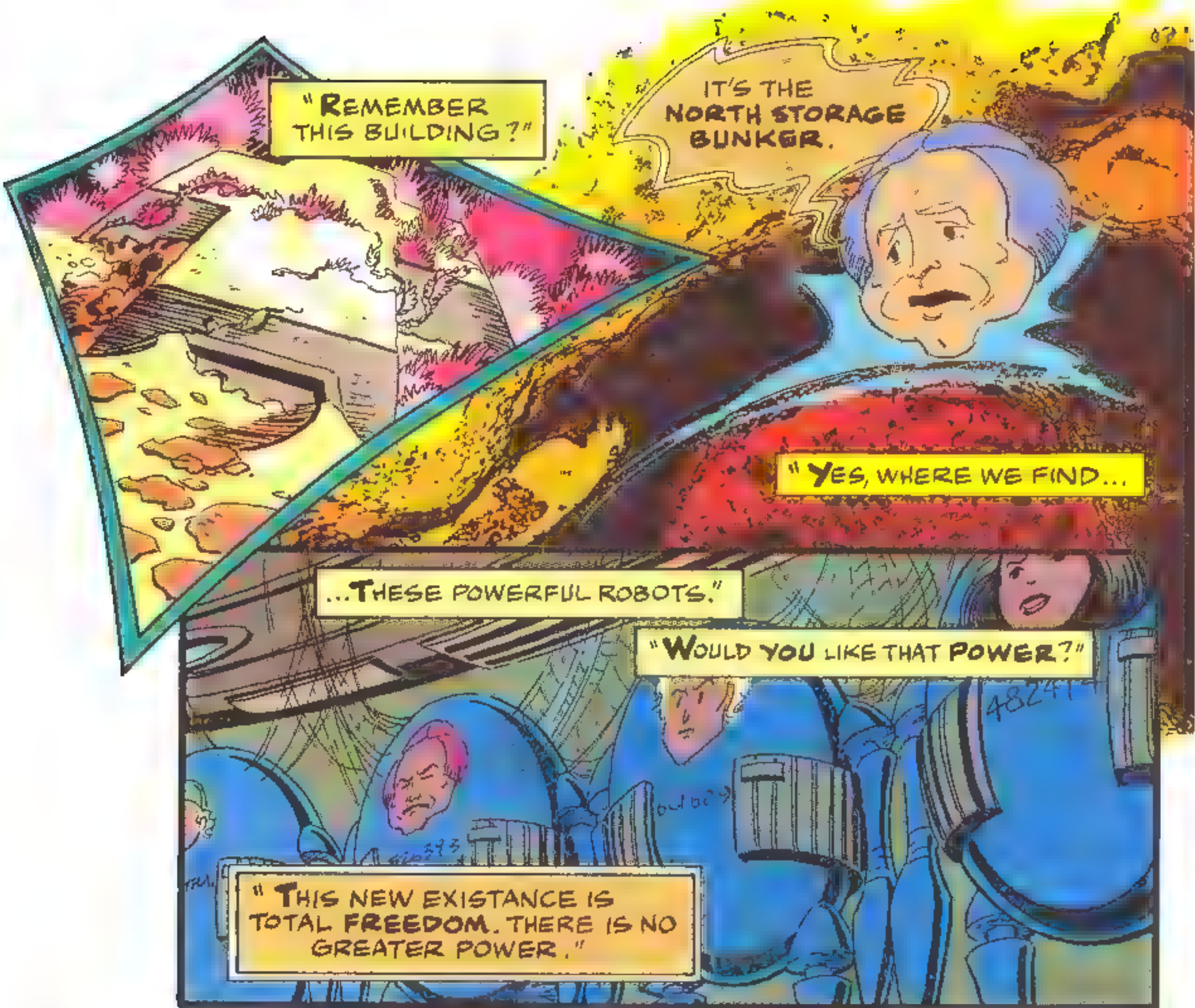
I WANT
YOU TO KNOW
THAT **DEATH** IS
ASSURED FOR ALL
YOUR OLD FRIENDS.

BUT I'M
OFFERING YOU--
AND THEM--
LIFE!

LIFE? FOR
MYSELF, I'VE NO
WISH TO
REGAIN IT.

NOT EVEN
TO SAVE YOUR
FRIENDS?

I DON'T
APPRECIATE YOUR
THREATS-- AND I'VE
ALREADY **AGREED!**
NOW TELL ME WHAT
YOU EXPECT OF ME.



"REMEMBER THIS BUILDING?"

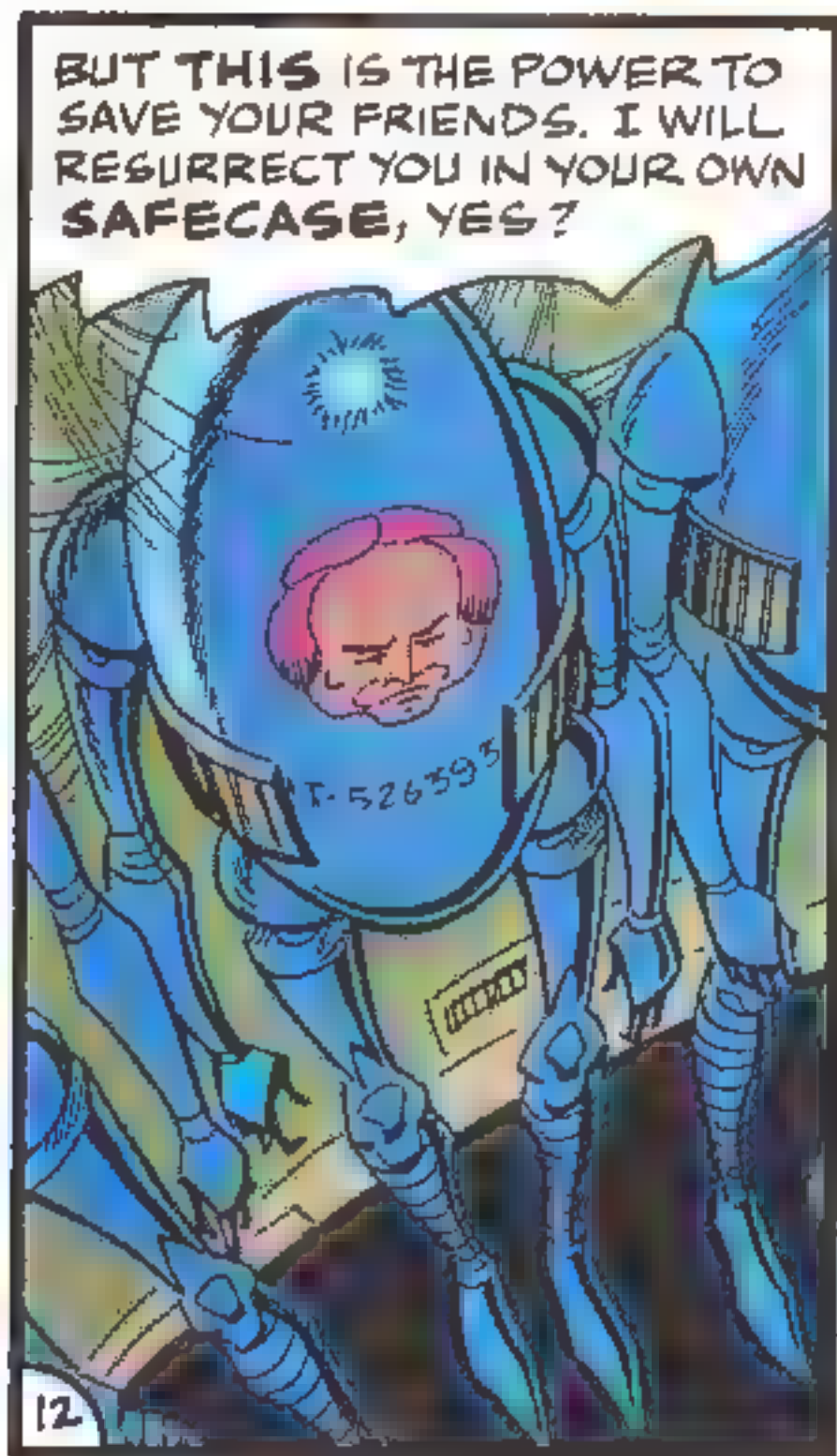
IT'S THE NORTH STORAGE BUNKER.

"YES, WHERE WE FIND..."

...THESE POWERFUL ROBOTS."

"WOULD YOU LIKE THAT POWER?"

"THIS NEW EXISTANCE IS TOTAL FREEDOM. THERE IS NO GREATER POWER."



BUT THIS IS THE POWER TO SAVE YOUR FRIENDS. I WILL RESURRECT YOU IN YOUR OWN SAFECASE, YES?



FOR THAT YOU'D NEED THE MACHINERY ABOARD THE GODDARD/LOWELL.

THE SPACE STATION? YOU KNOW I ALREADY CONTROL THAT...

AND HERE, BEYOND LIFE, MILOS BEGINS TO UNDERSTAND THE MEANING OF HELL.



HELP!
THE BEAST!

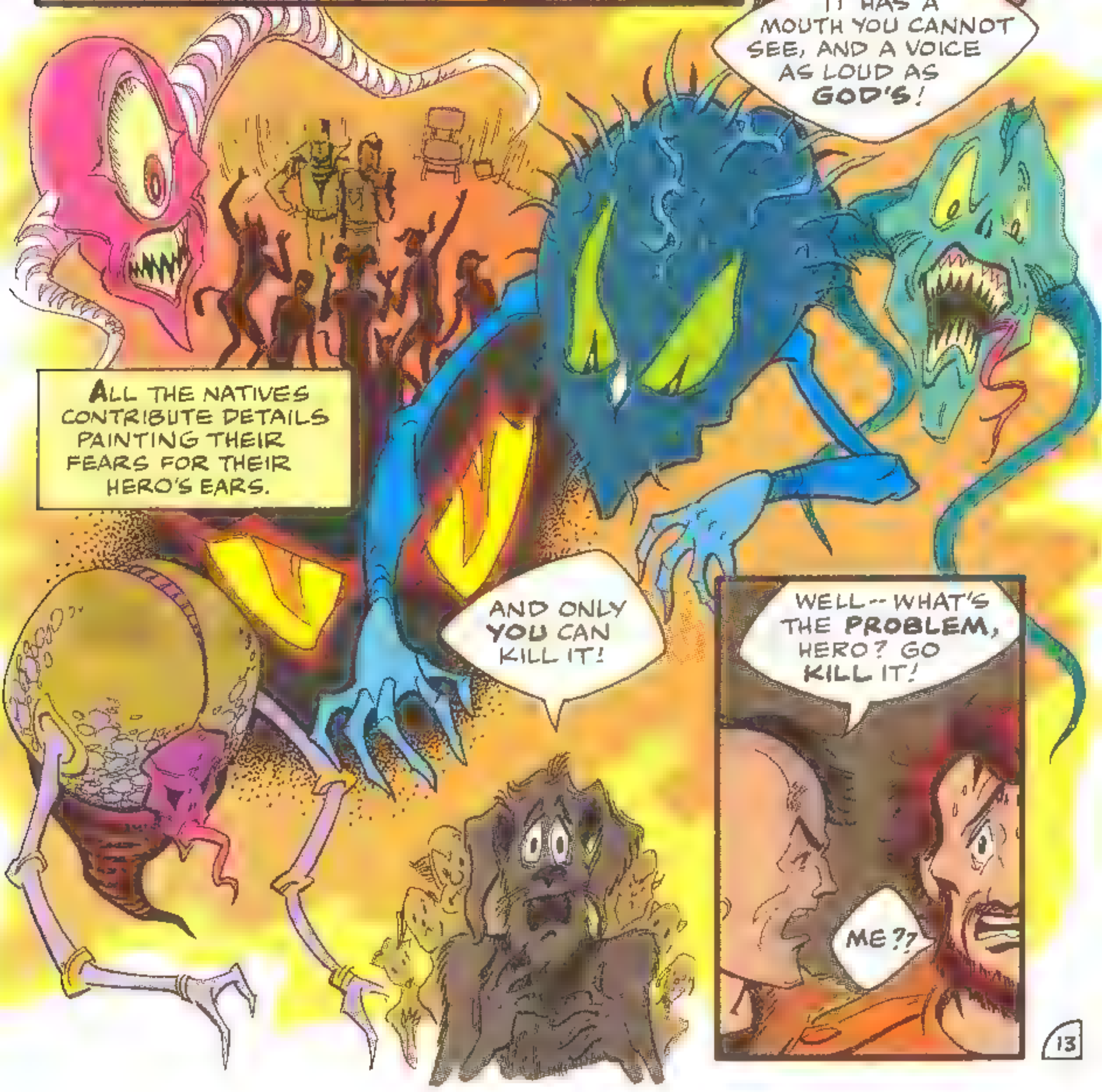
OH GREAT
RAY! IT HAS
RETURNED!
IT'S SO
HORRIBLE!

WHAT
IS
IT?



BUT YOU
SAW IT! IT IS A
GIANT WITH ARMS
GROWING FROM
ITS HEAD!

IT HAS A
MOUTH YOU CANNOT
SEE, AND A VOICE
AS LOUD AS
GOD'S!

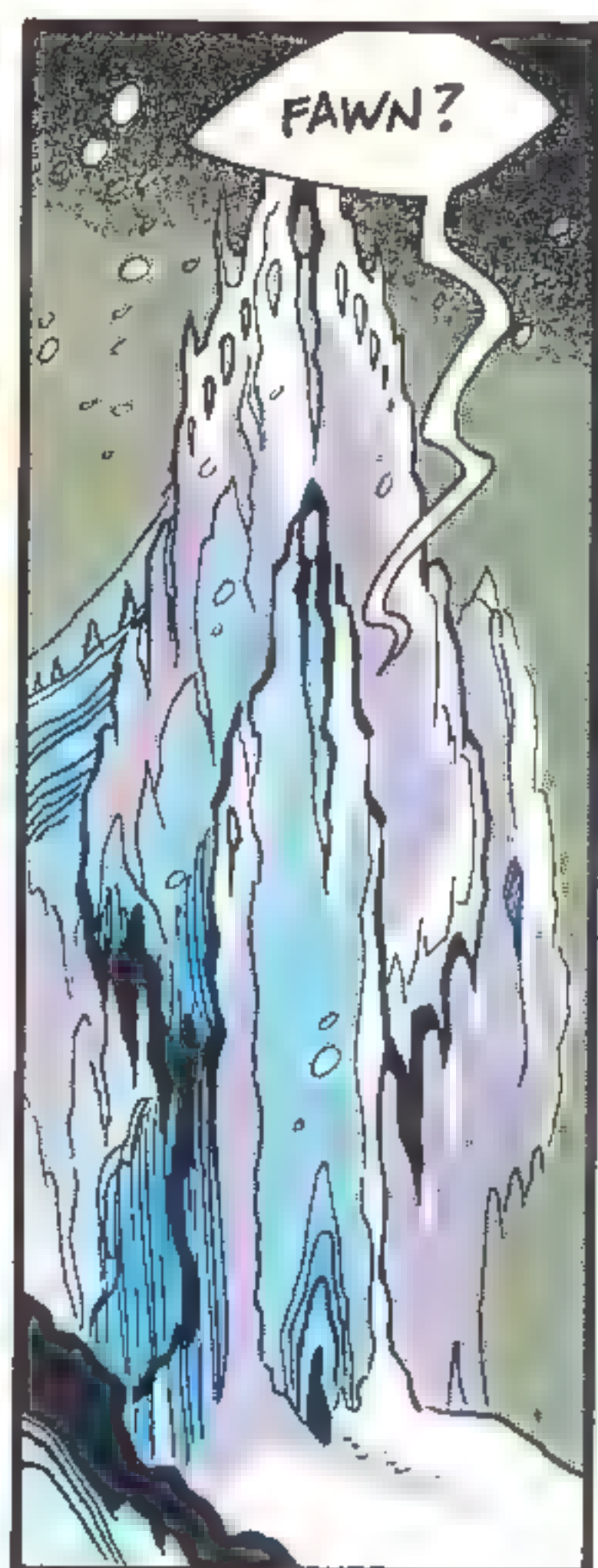


ALL THE NATIVES
CONTRIBUTE DETAILS
PAINTING THEIR
FEARS FOR THEIR
HERO'S EARS.

AND ONLY
YOU CAN
KILL IT!

WELL-- WHAT'S
THE PROBLEM,
HERO? GO
KILL IT!

ME??





THERE
IS NO
FAWN.
THERE IS
ONLY ME.

SHE IS A DISGUISE
THAT CARRIED ME SAFELY
THROUGH MY BROTHER'S DOMAIN.
EVEN WHEN I WAS AT HIS MERCY
IN THE **CONFESSIONAL**
TREE HE DID NOT
RECOGNIZE ME. BUT
TO HIDE SO
WELL...

...EVEN I
THOUGHT
I WAS
FAWN.

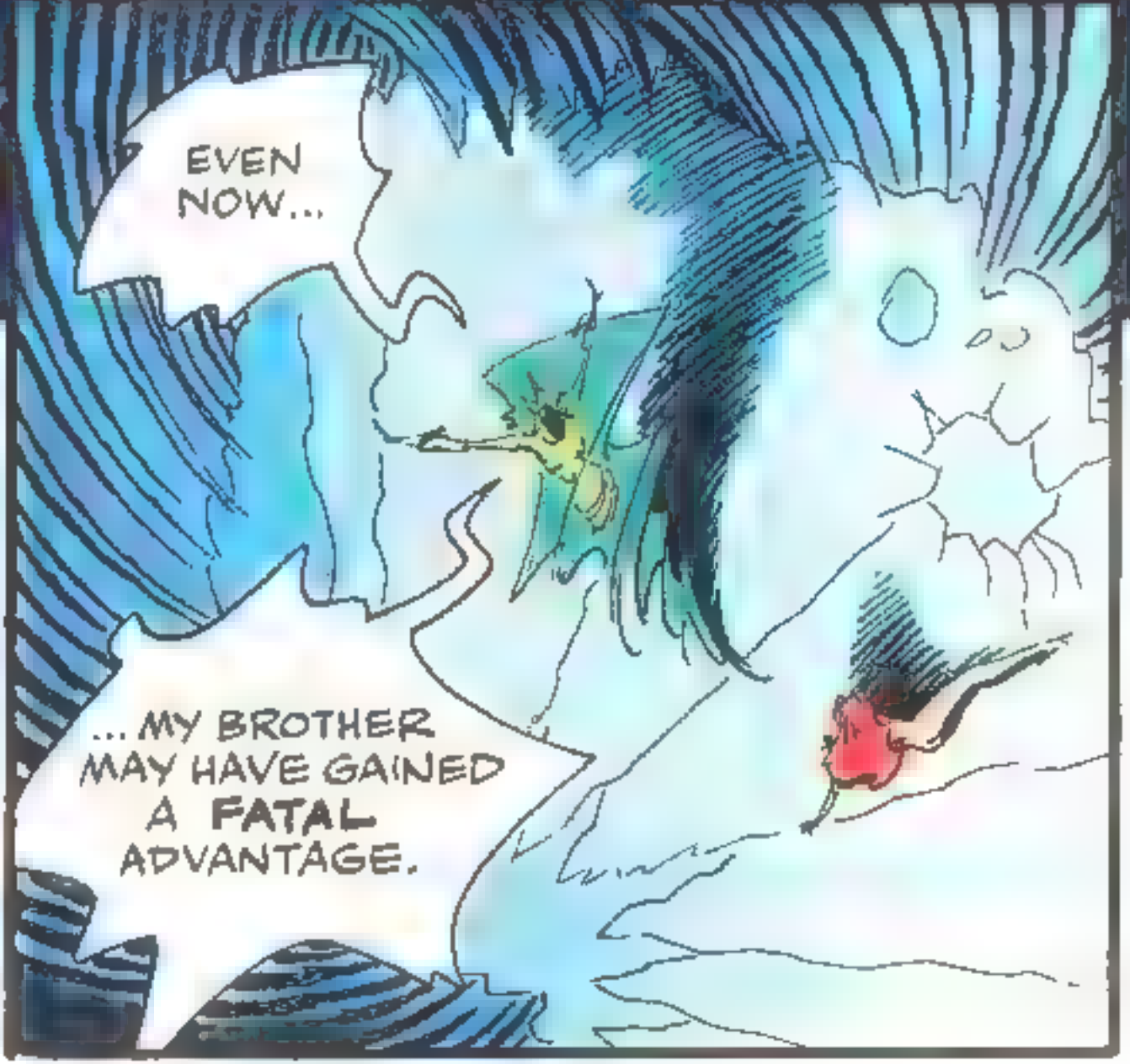


AND,
TOO, FAWN
WAS SOMEONE
YOU FELT
COMFORTABLE
WITH. I CAN
SEE THAT **THIS FORM**
INTIMIDATES YOU. BUT
YOU MUST **TRUST ME!**



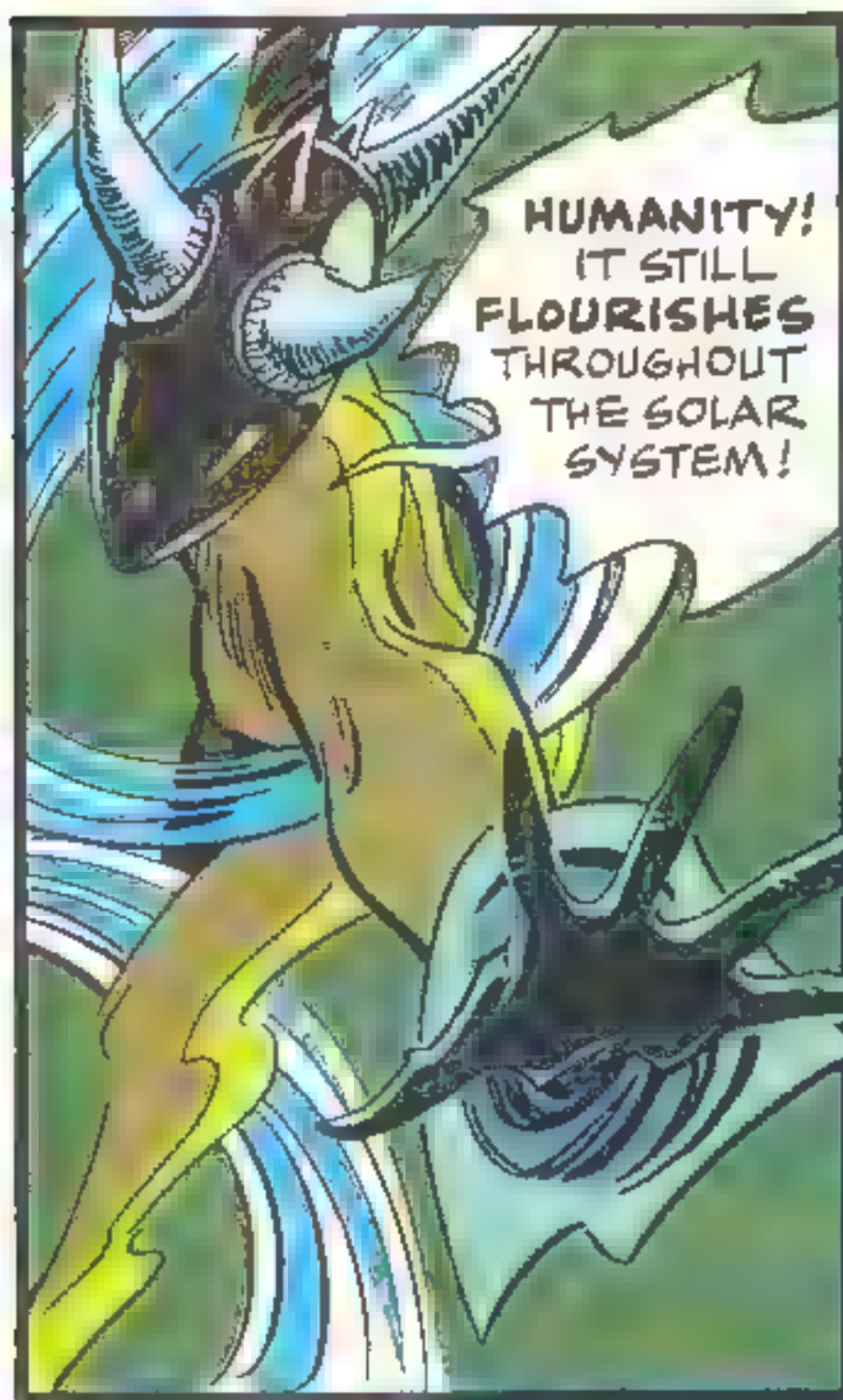
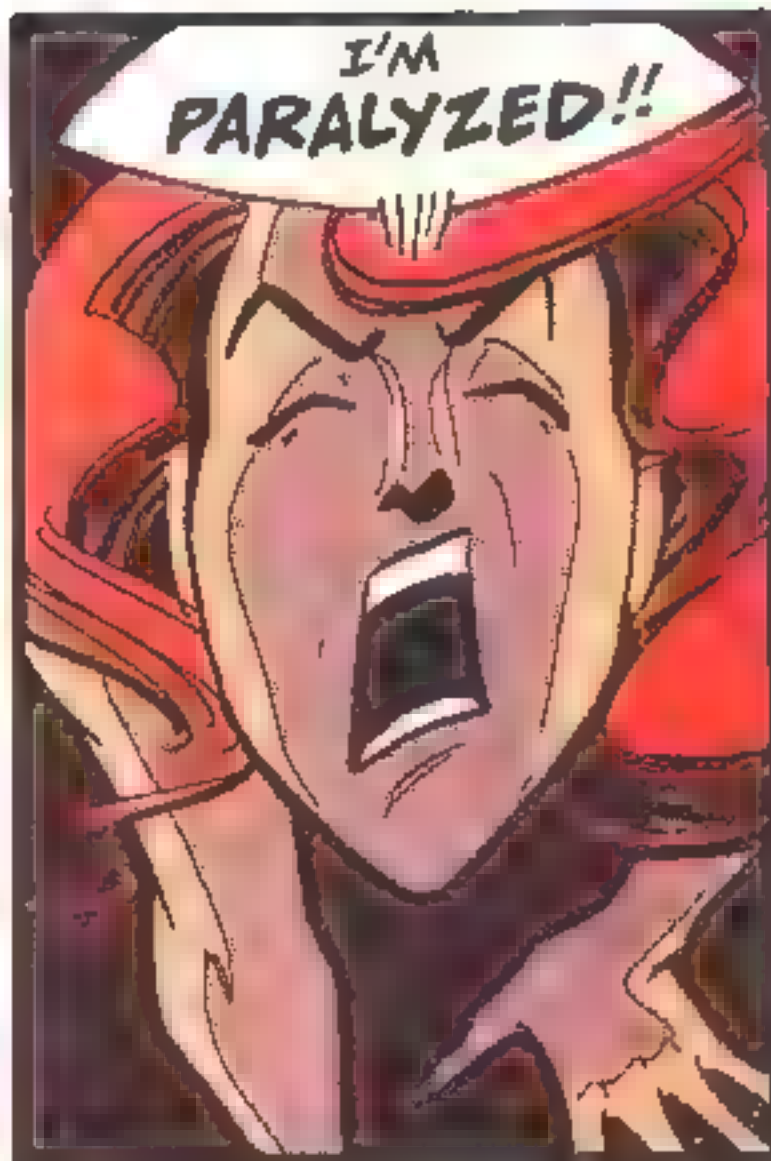
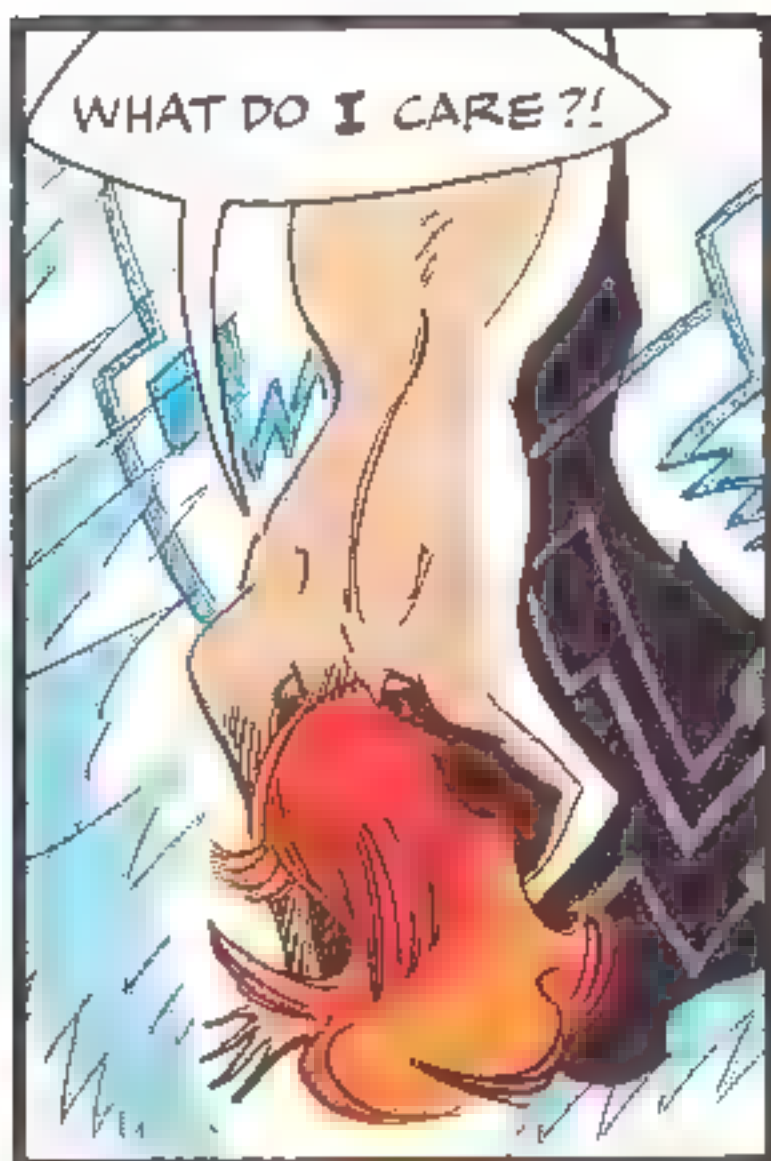
WE MUST
COMMUNICATE!

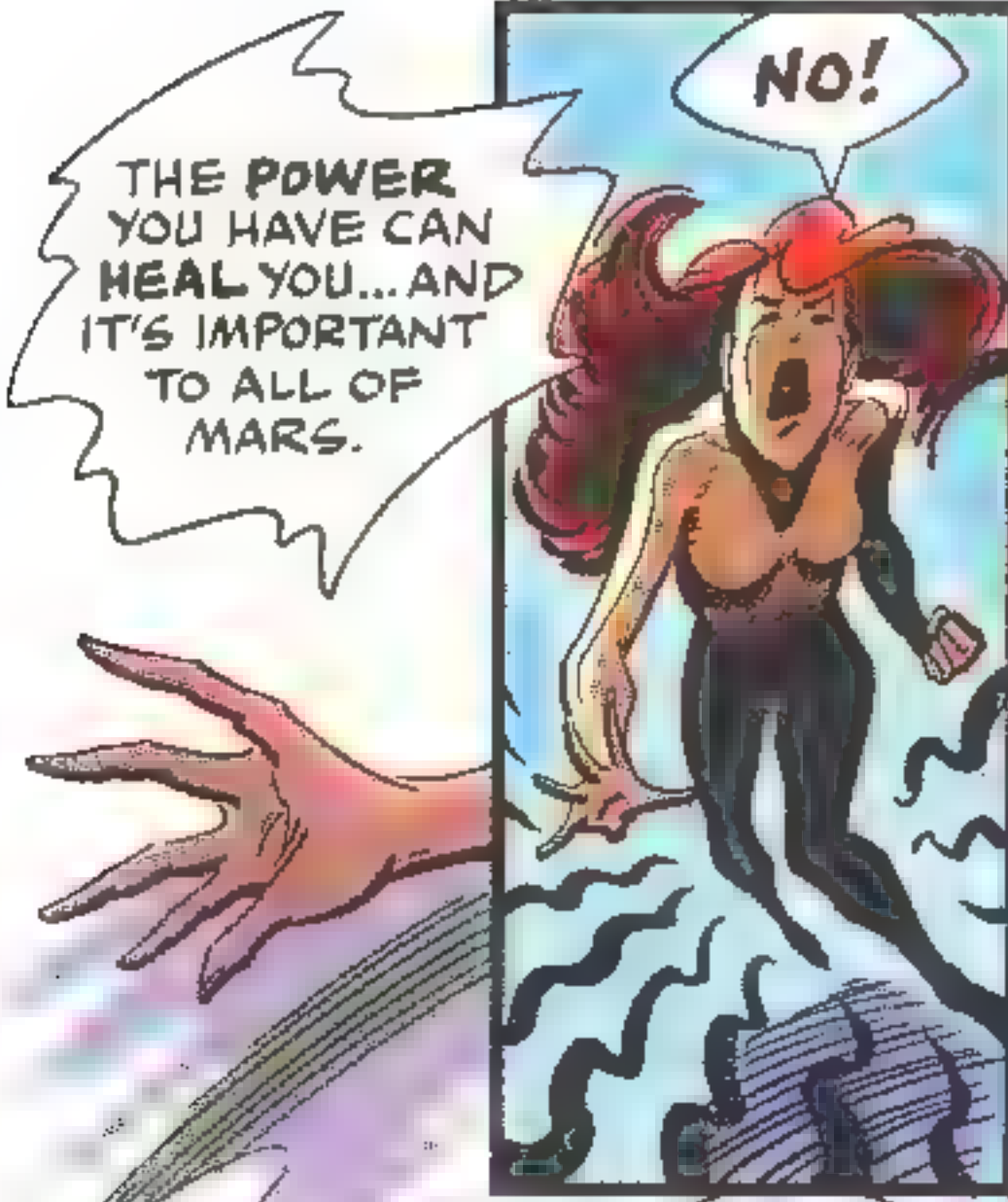
THERE IS
SO MUCH FOR
US TO **TEACH**
ONE ANOTHER...
AND SO LITTLE TIME.



EVEN
NOW...

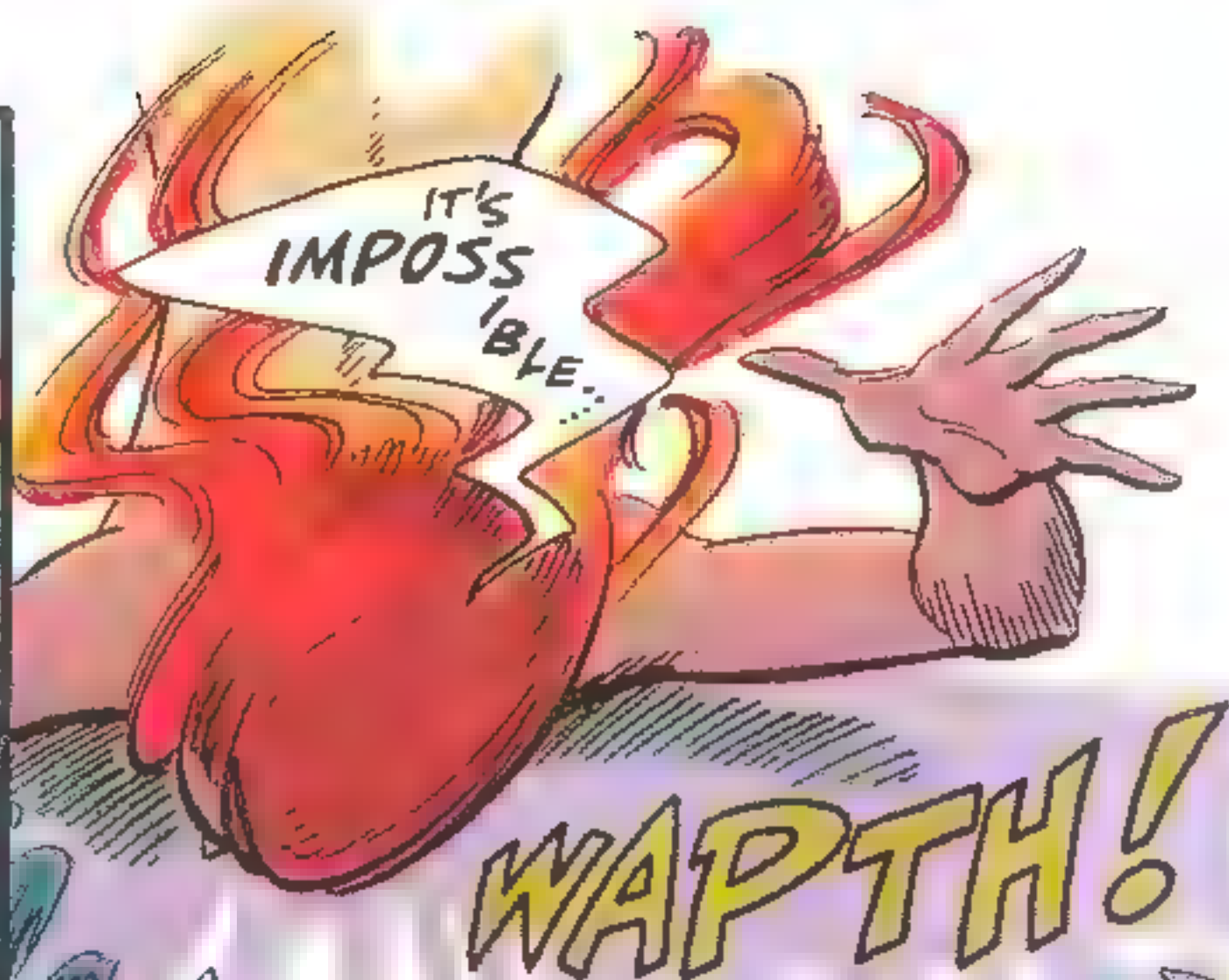
...MY BROTHER
MAY HAVE GAINED
A **FATAL**
ADVANTAGE.





NO!

THE POWER YOU HAVE CAN HEAL YOU...AND IT'S IMPORTANT TO ALL OF MARS.



IT'S IMPOSSIBLE...

WAPTH!



RAY?

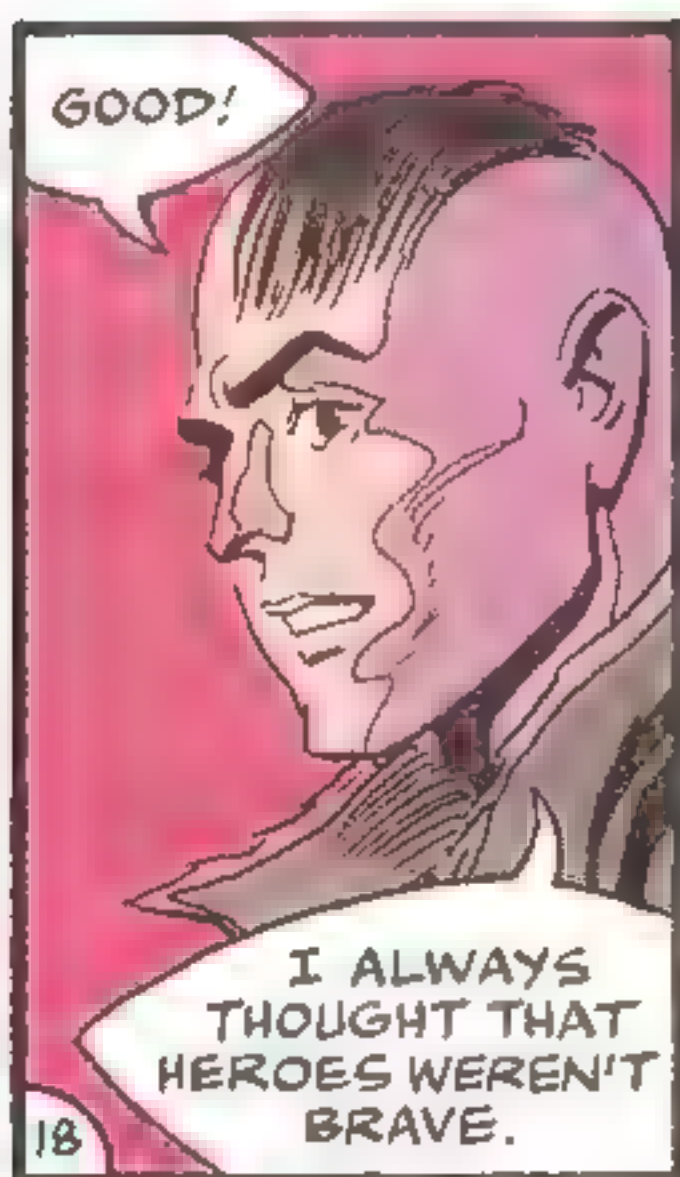


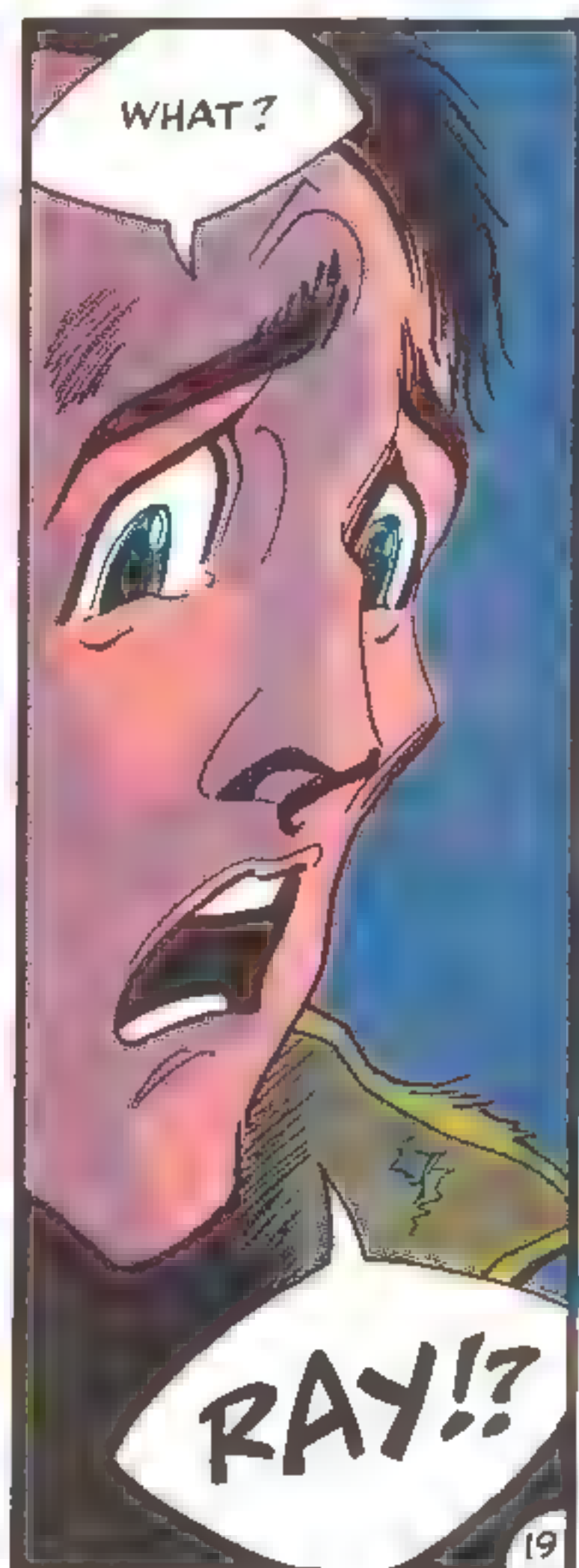
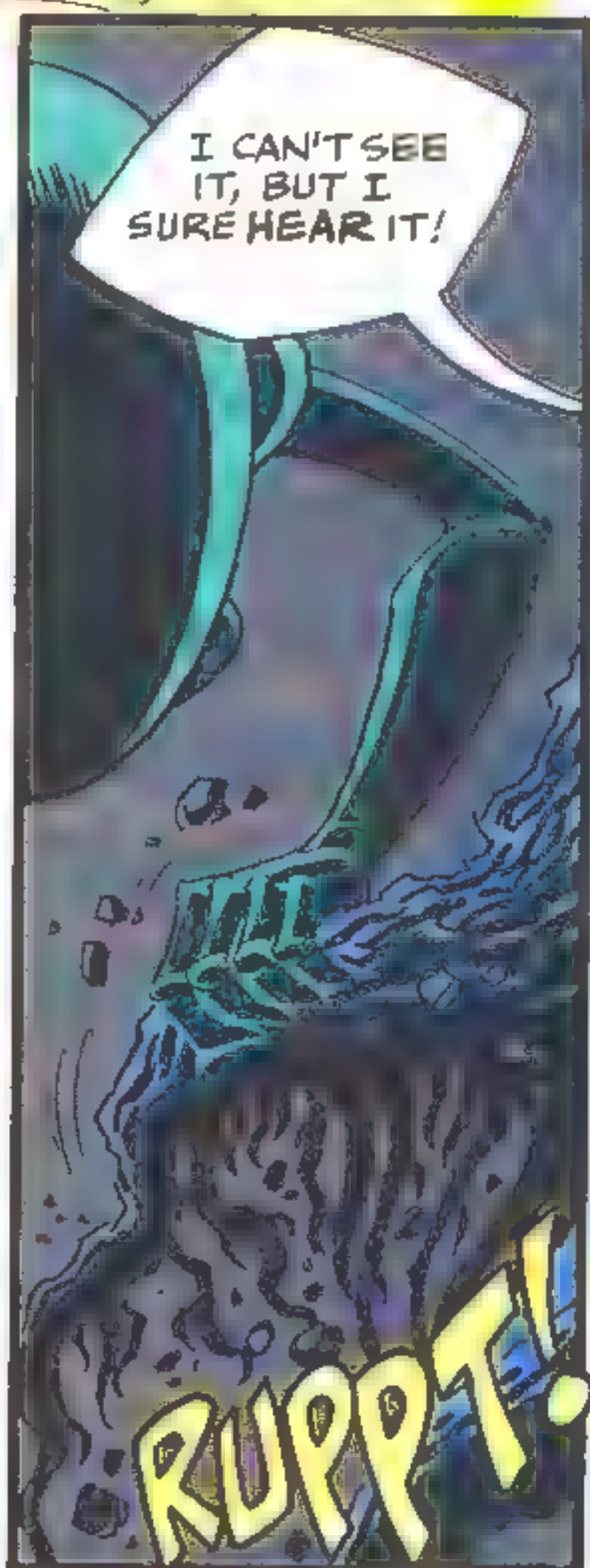
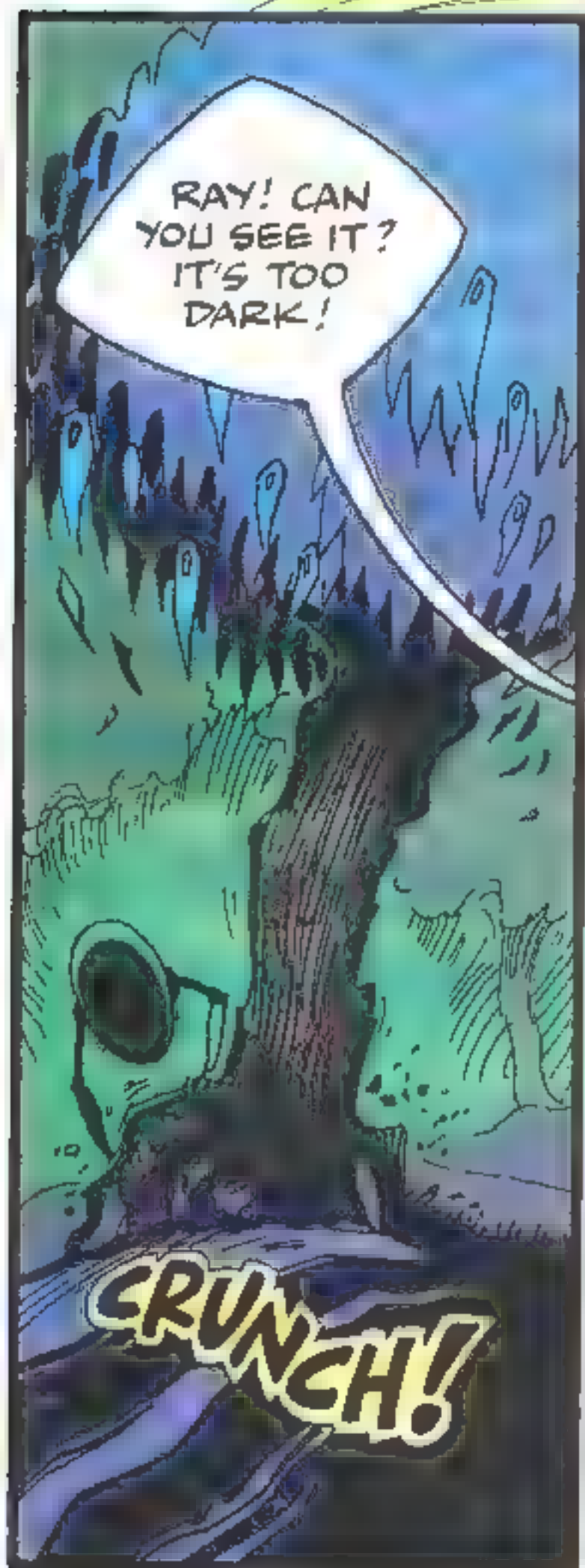
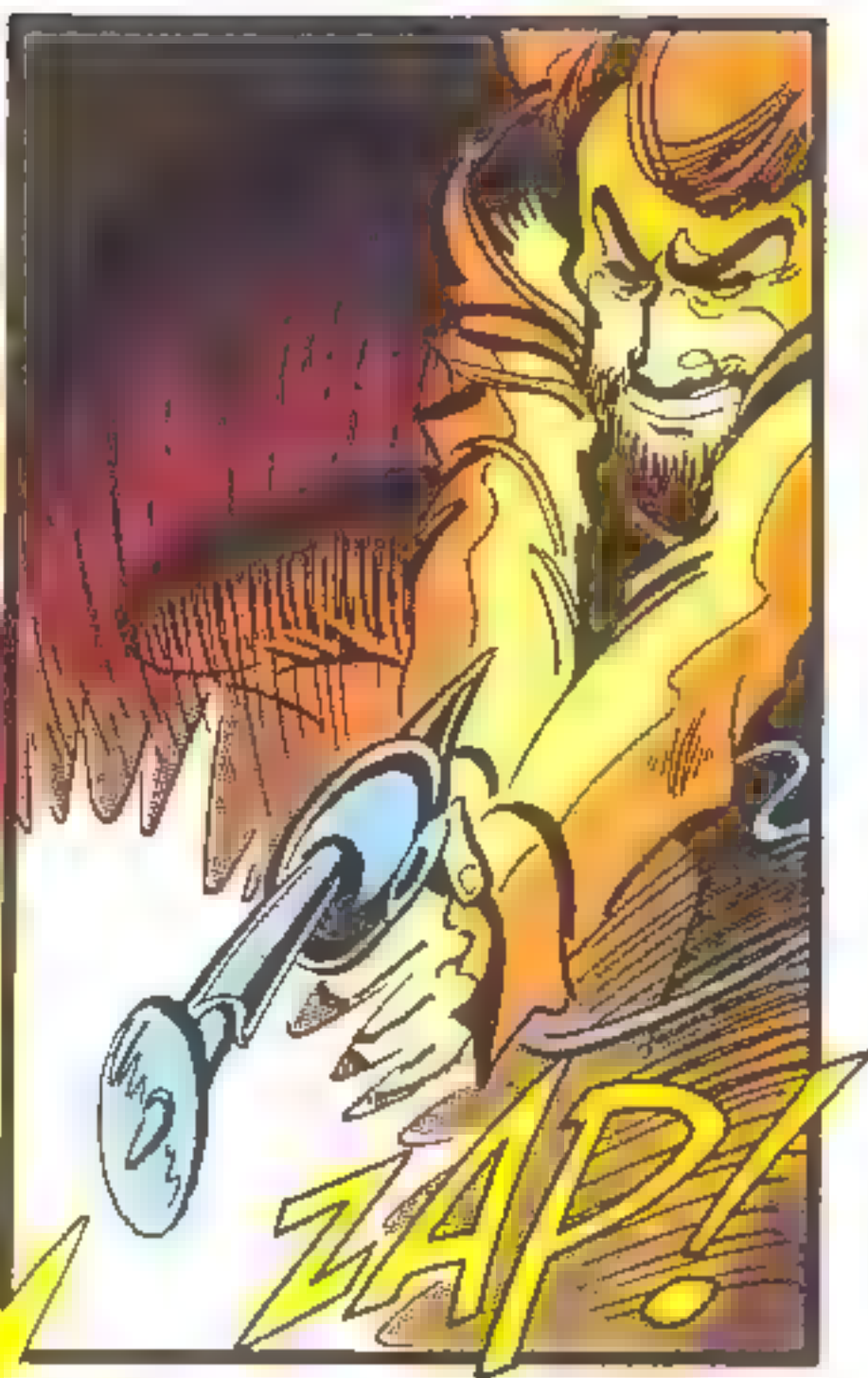
THERE'S NOTHING KEEPING US HERE...

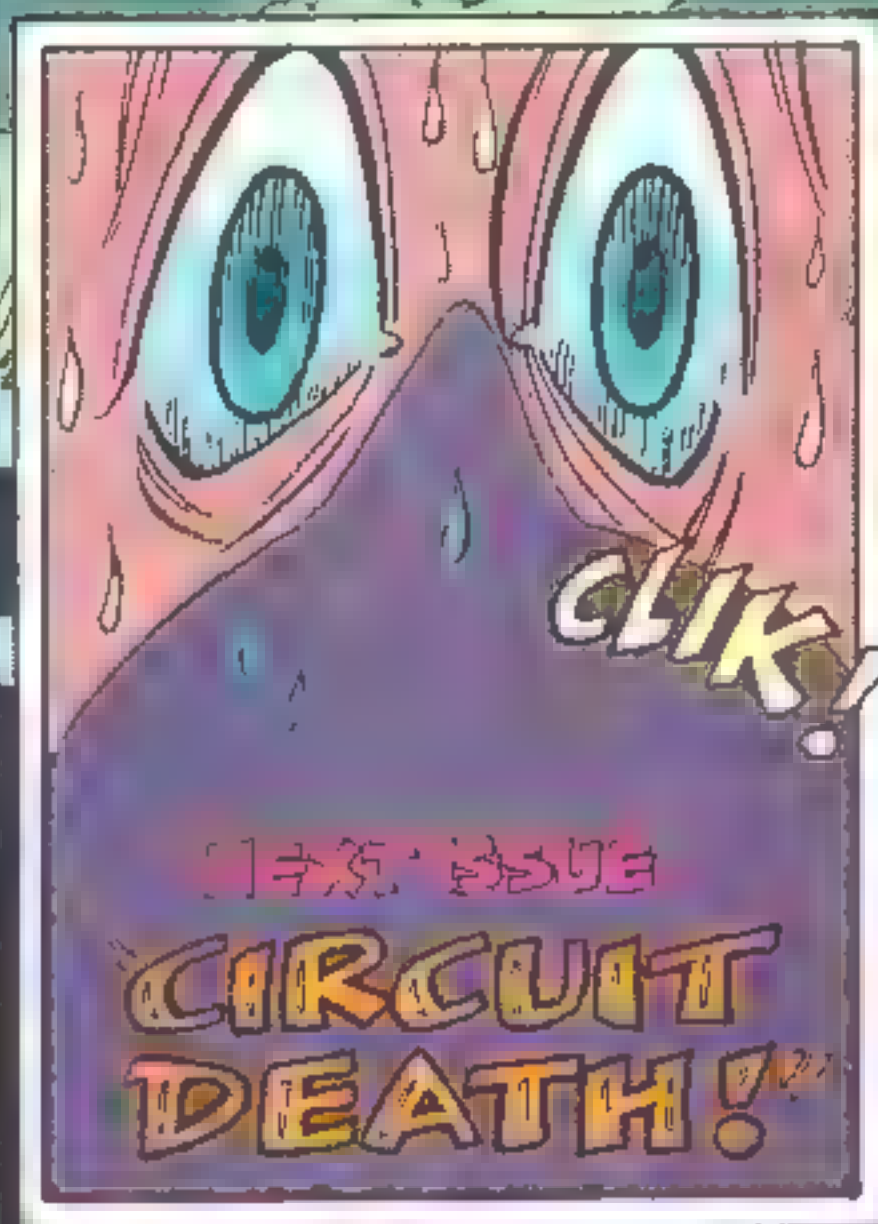
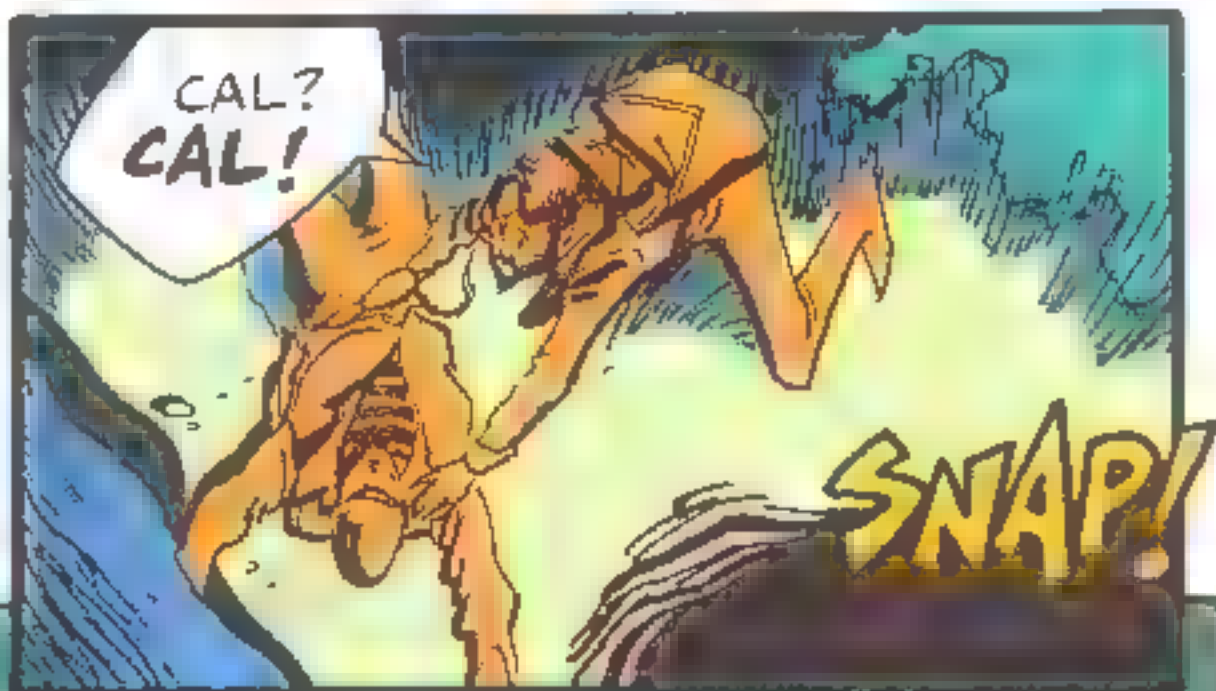
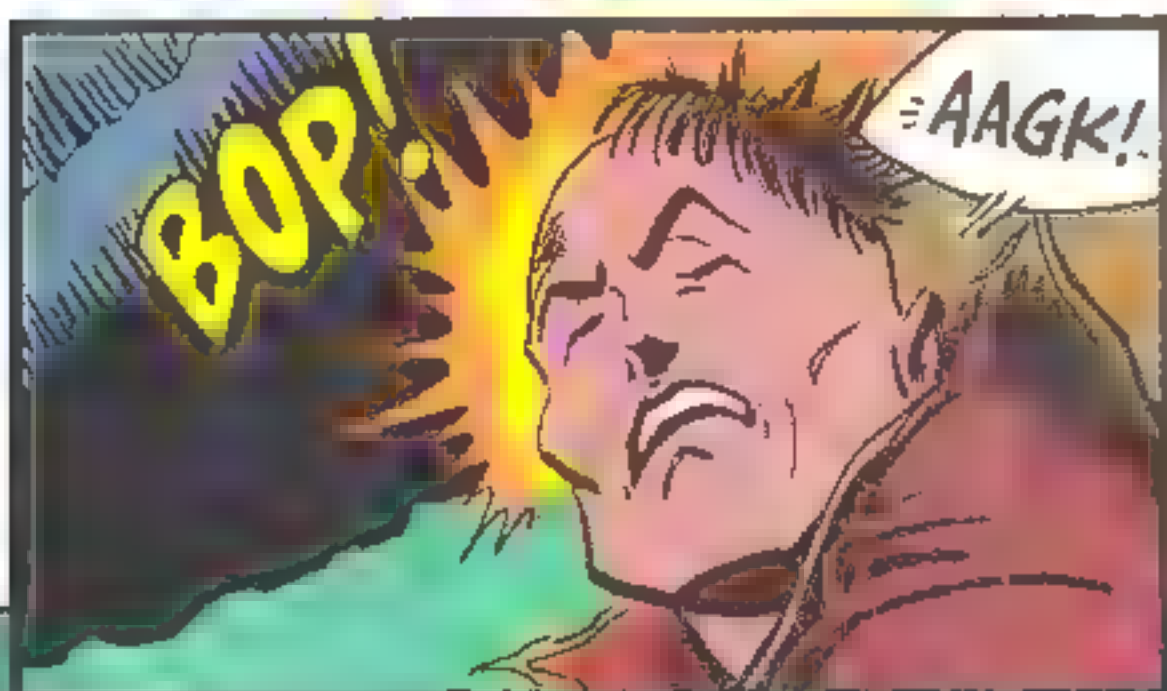
THE MONSTER!



DAMN! IF YOU'RE THAT FRIGHTENED WE CAN JUST SLIP AWAY!







DYNAMO JOE™

THE BATTLING BEHEMOTH'S
FIRST ADVENTURE CONCLUDES
IN **MARS** No. 12.

by John Ostrander
and Doug Rice

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DYNAMO JOE

LESS THAN FOUR HOURS
HAVE PASSED SINCE THE
ALLIANCE EVACUATED ITS
TROOPS FROM THEIR LAST
BATTERED OUTPOST ON
FERGUSSON 8. THEY ARE
IN DEEP TROUBLE.

"EGG"
AWAY!
INFORM
ADMIRAL
SHIMAMURA.

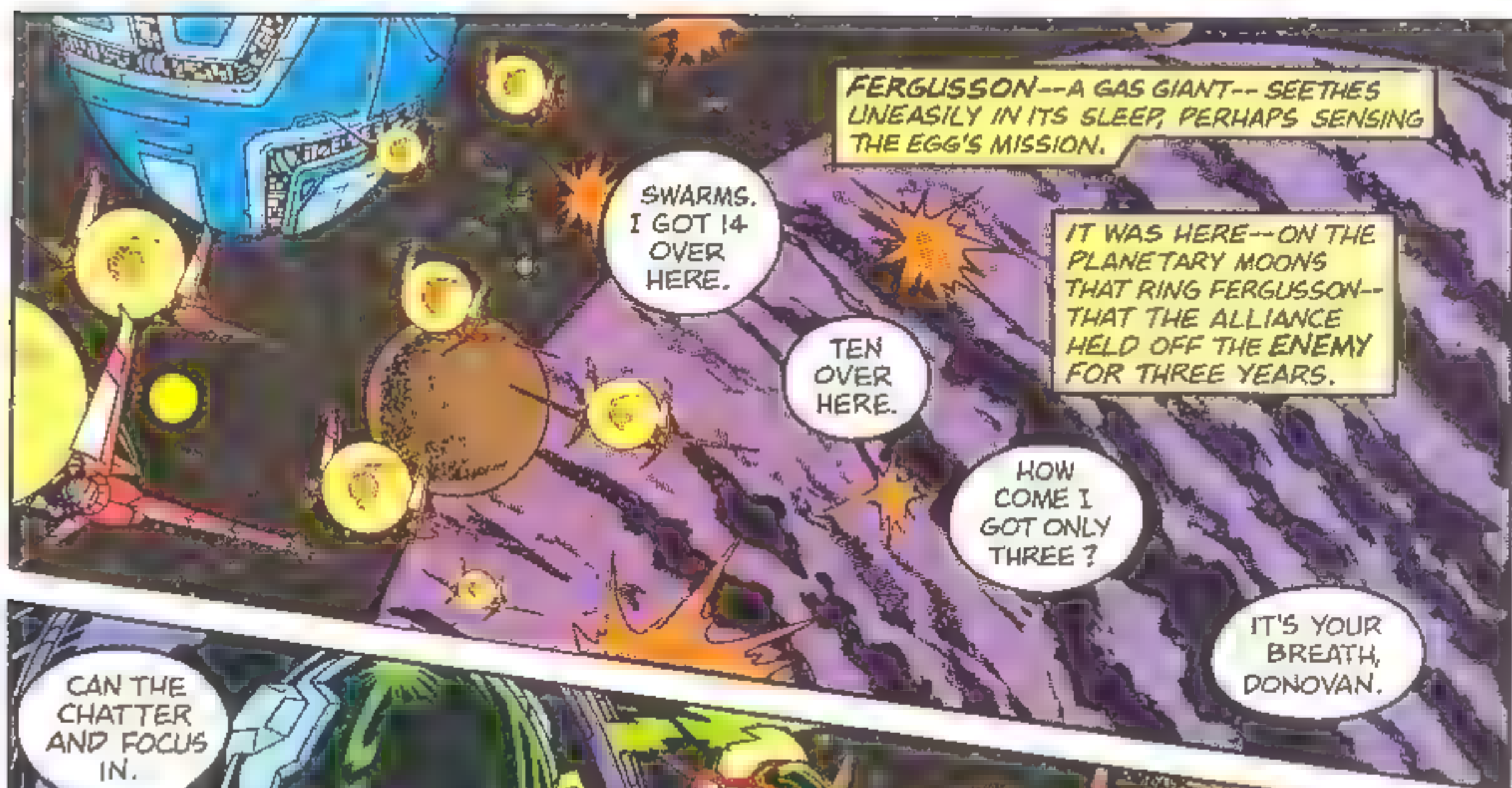
"THE EGG"—THE BRAINCHILD
OF GEN. SERGEI IPPOLITOV
—IS A STARBURSTER BOMB,
500 FT. FROM TIP TO TIP.
IT IS THE LAST CARD THE
ALLIANCE HAS TO PLAY.

HELLIONS,
FLIGHTS
4 AND 6,
CLOSE UP
FORMATIONS.

LOOK
SHARP!
COMPANY'S
CALLING!

DOUG RICE
CREATOR/ARTIST
JOHN OSTRANDER
WRITER
STEVE HAYNIE
LETTERER
RICK TAYLOR
COLORIST
MIKE GOLD
EDITOR

THE KEY TO SURVIVAL



FERGUSSON--A GAS GIANT-- SEETHES UNEASILY IN ITS SLEEP, PERHAPS SENSING THE EGG'S MISSION.

SWARMS. I GOT 14 OVER HERE.

TEN OVER HERE.

IT WAS HERE--ON THE PLANETARY MOONS THAT RING FERGUSSON-- THAT THE ALLIANCE HELD OFF THE ENEMY FOR THREE YEARS.

HOW COME I GOT ONLY THREE?

IT'S YOUR BREATH, DONOVAN.



CAN THE CHATTER AND FOCUS IN.

REMEMBER: THE KEY TO SURVIVAL IS TO KEEP MOVING.

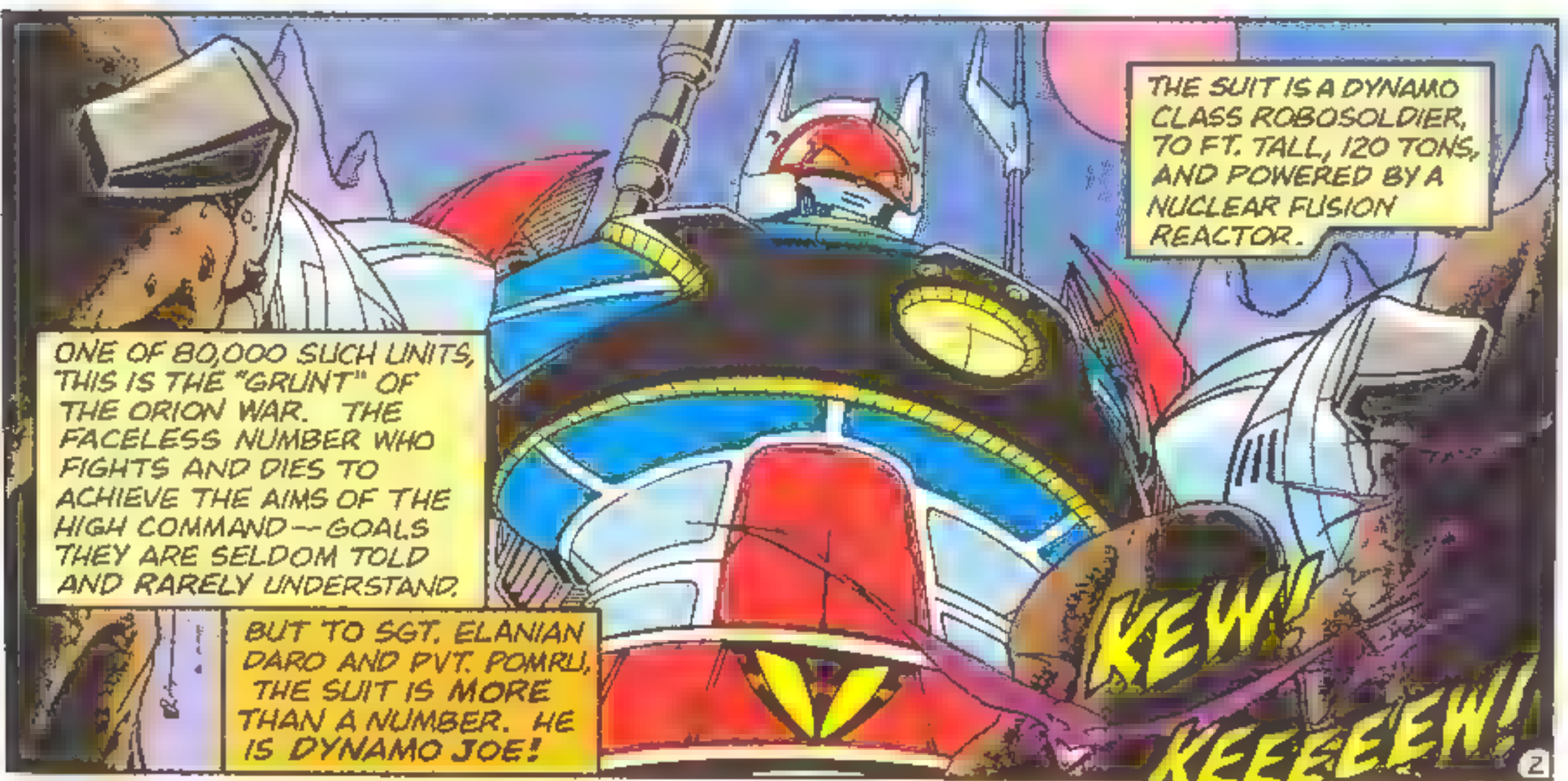
THEY PASS FERGUSSON 8 ON THE FLY.



NOT EVERYONE GOT OFF FERGUSSON 8

HOT JETS! SARGE! GETTING LIFE-FORM READINGS FROM CRATER BEARING ZERO-TWO-SIX.

AWRIGHT POMRU. LET'S BRING THE SUIT AROUND.

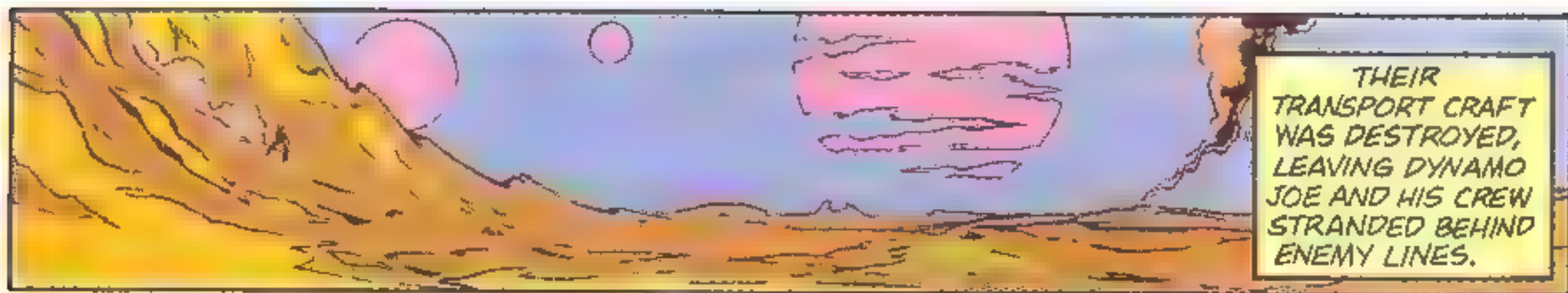


THE SUIT IS A DYNAMO CLASS ROBOSOLDIER, 70 FT. TALL, 120 TONS, AND POWERED BY A NUCLEAR FUSION REACTOR.

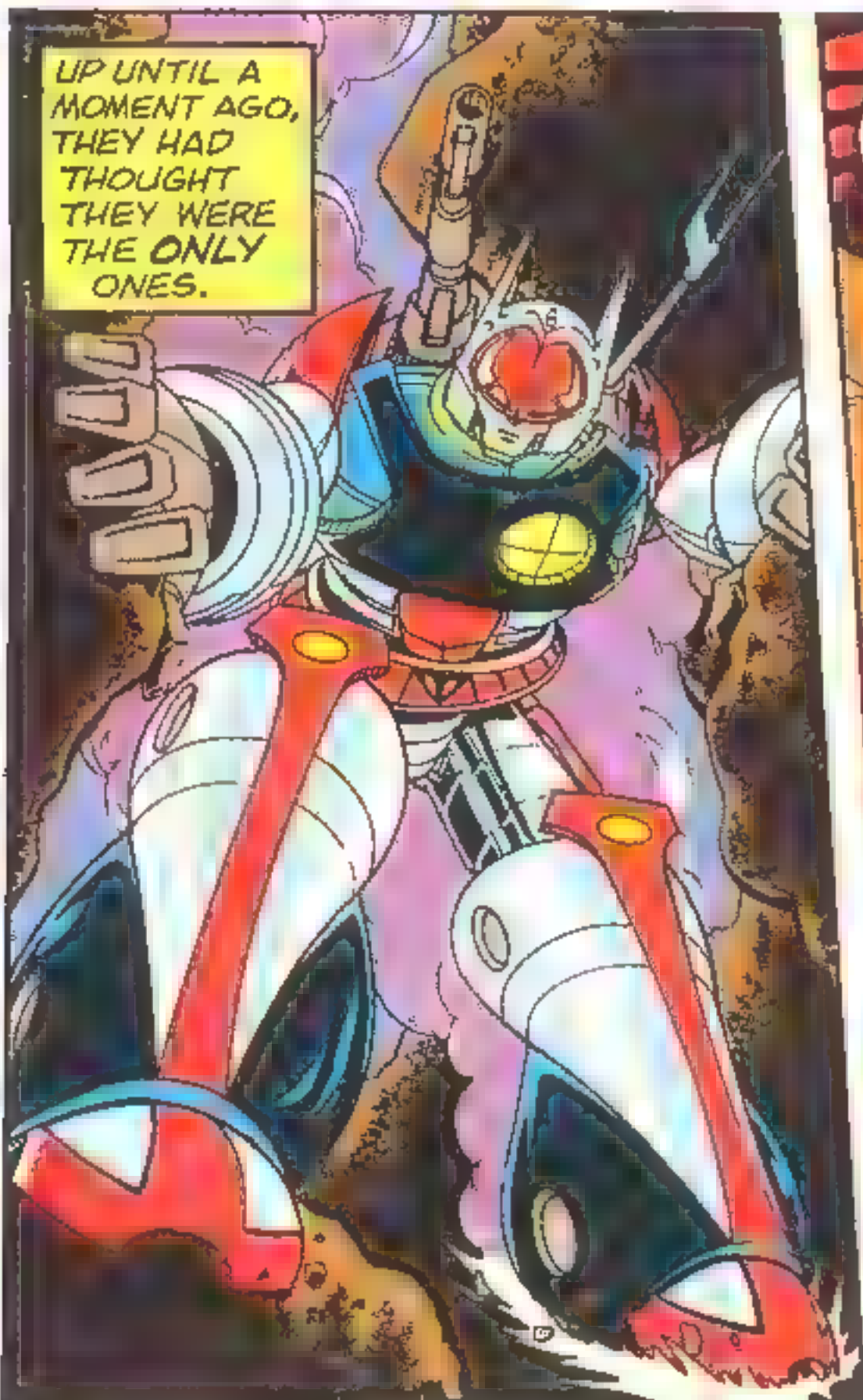
ONE OF 80,000 SUCH UNITS, THIS IS THE "GRUNT" OF THE ORION WAR. THE FACELESS NUMBER WHO FIGHTS AND DIES TO ACHIEVE THE AIMS OF THE HIGH COMMAND-- GOALS THEY ARE SELDOM TOLD AND RARELY UNDERSTAND.

BUT TO SGT. ELANIAN DARD AND PVT. POMRU, THE SUIT IS MORE THAN A NUMBER. HE IS DYNAMO JOE!

KEW!
KEEEEEEW!



THEIR
TRANSPORT CRAFT
WAS DESTROYED,
LEAVING DYNAMO
JOE AND HIS CREW
STRANDED BEHIND
ENEMY LINES.



UP UNTIL A
MOMENT AGO,
THEY HAD
THOUGHT
THEY WERE
THE ONLY
ONES.

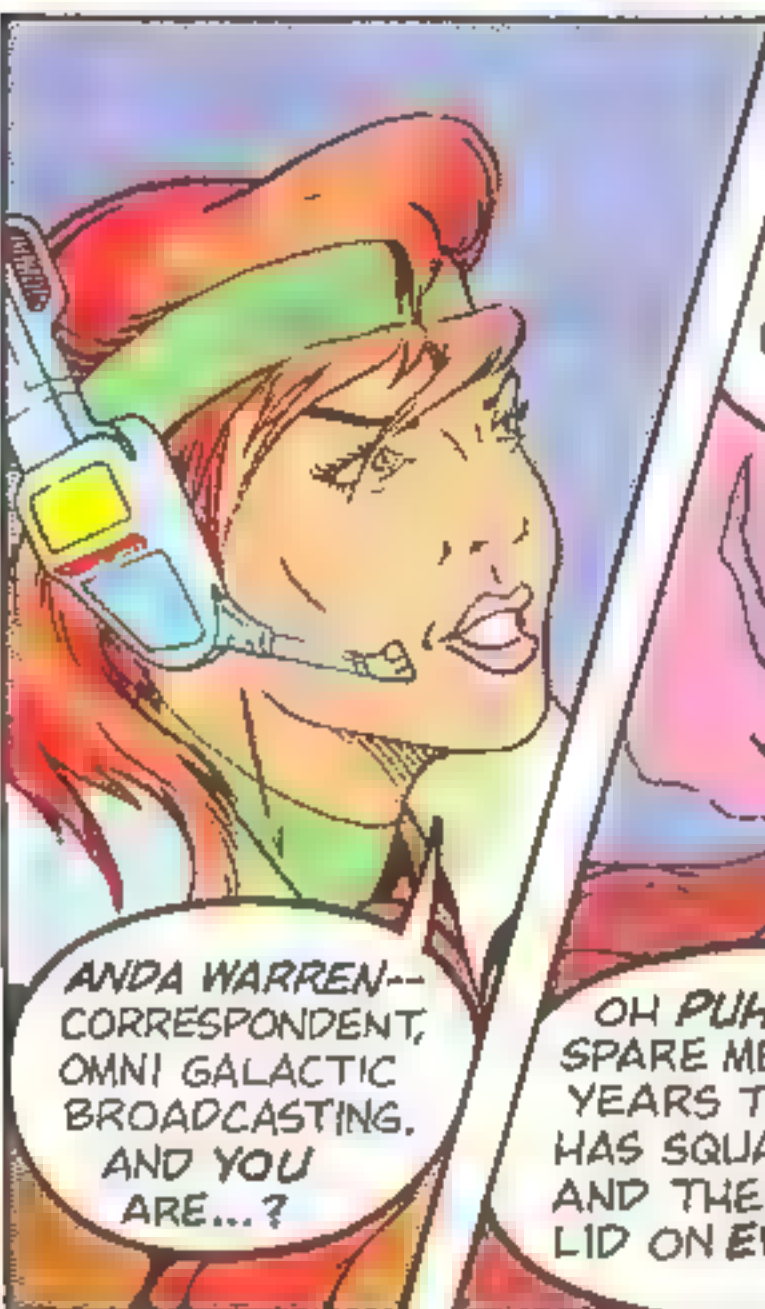


OWR NO!
SARGE,
LOOK!

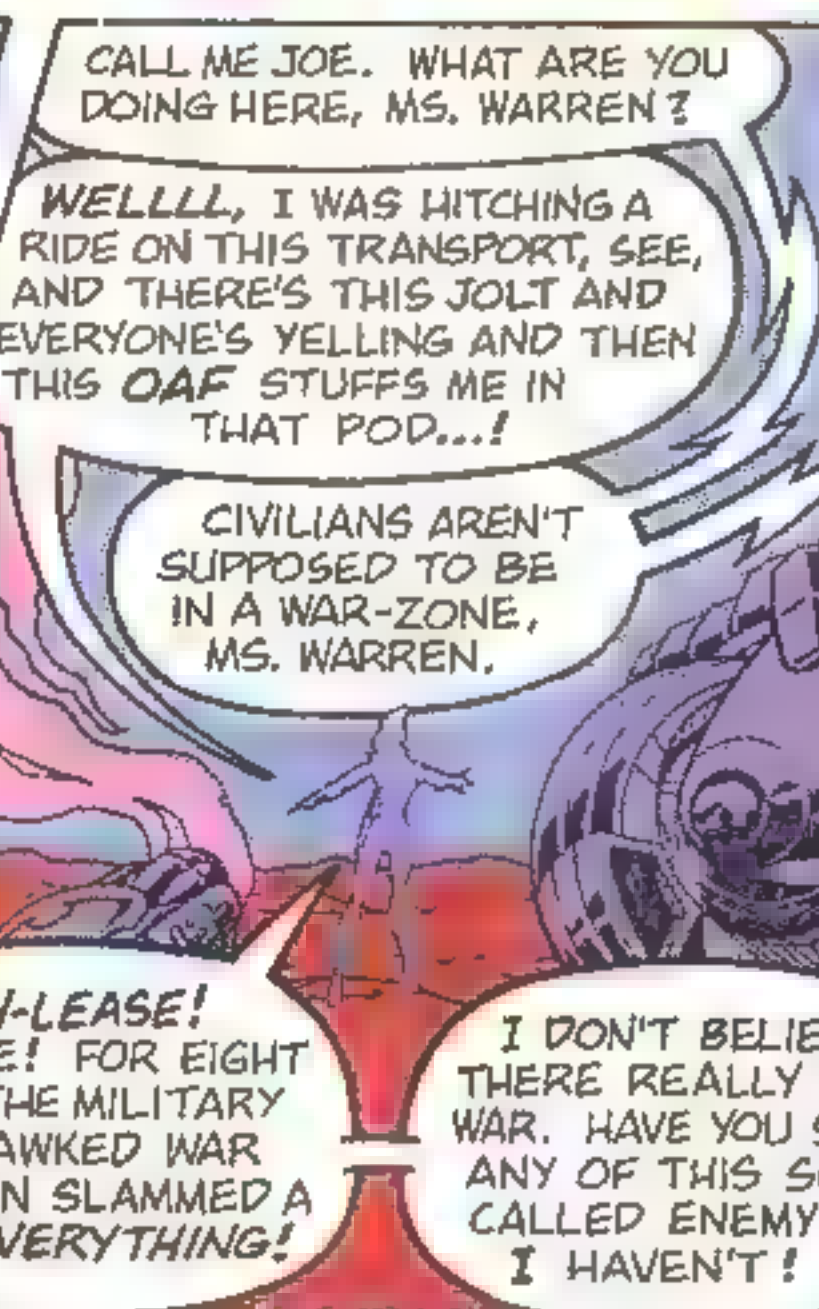


GOING
MY WAY
SOLDIER?

GOING
ANY WAY?
I'M NOT
REAL PICKY
RIGHT NOW.



ANDA WARREN--
CORRESPONDENT,
OMNI GALACTIC
BROADCASTING.
AND YOU
ARE...?



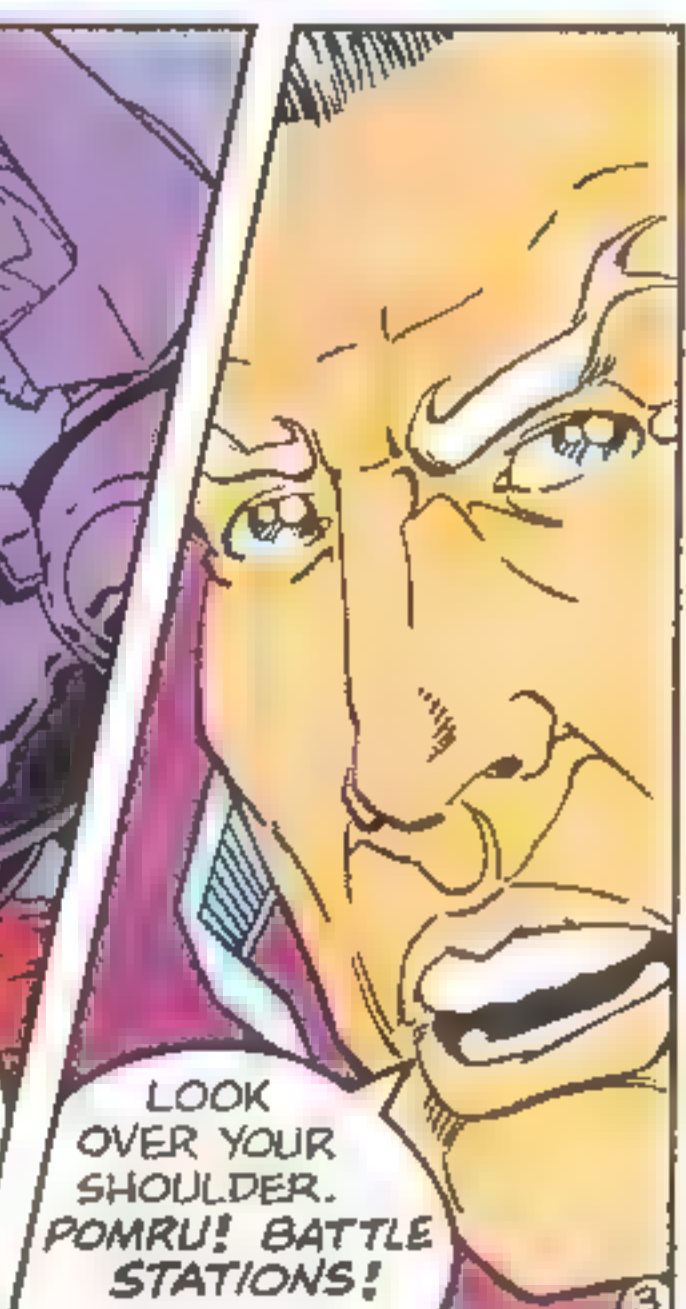
CALL ME JOE. WHAT ARE YOU
DOING HERE, MS. WARREN?

WELLLL, I WAS HITCHING A
RIDE ON THIS TRANSPORT, SEE,
AND THERE'S THIS JOLT AND
EVERYONE'S YELLING AND THEN
THIS OAF STUFFS ME IN
THAT POD...!

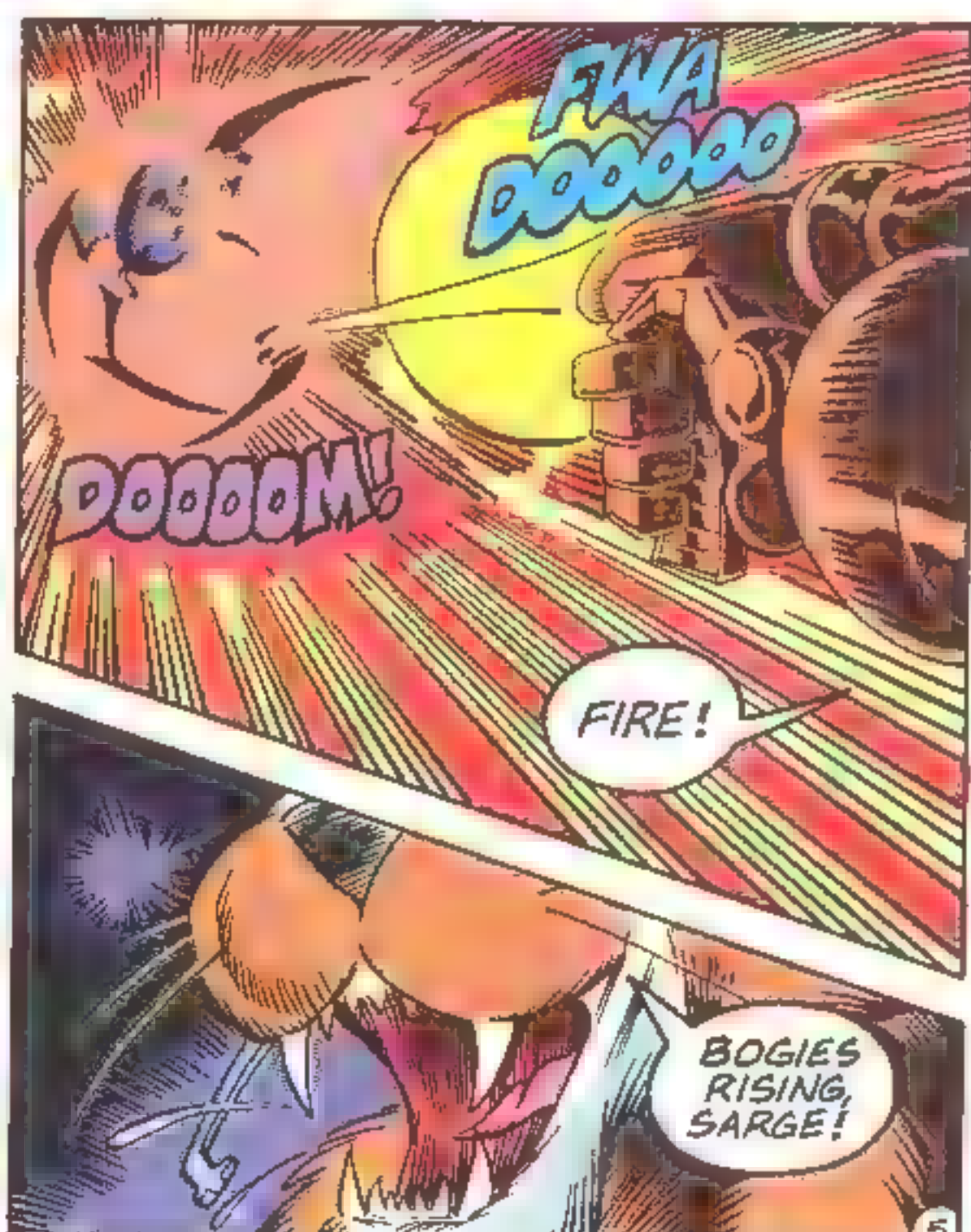
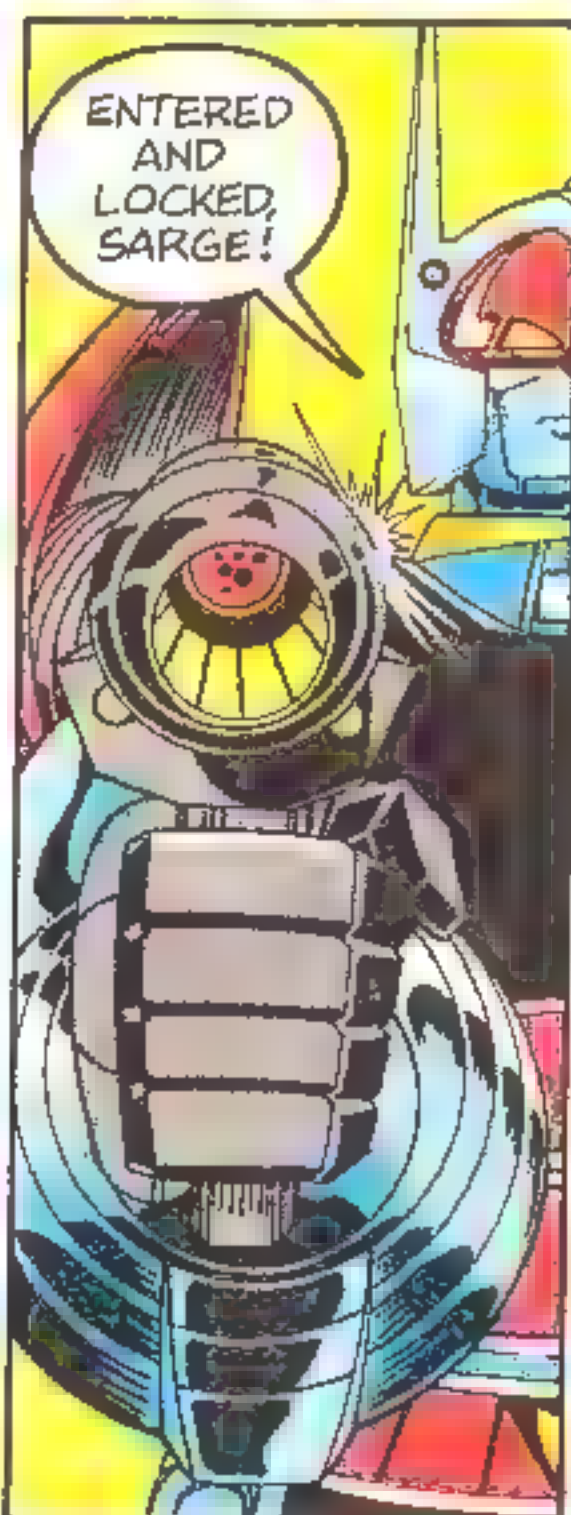
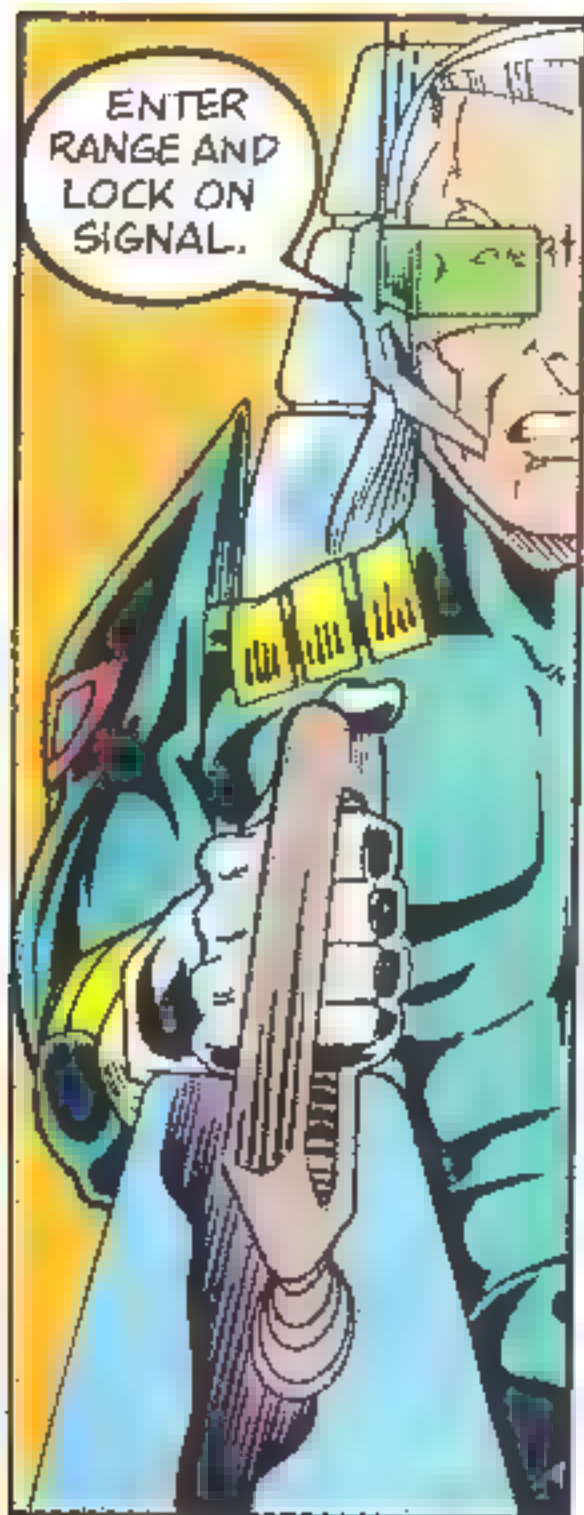
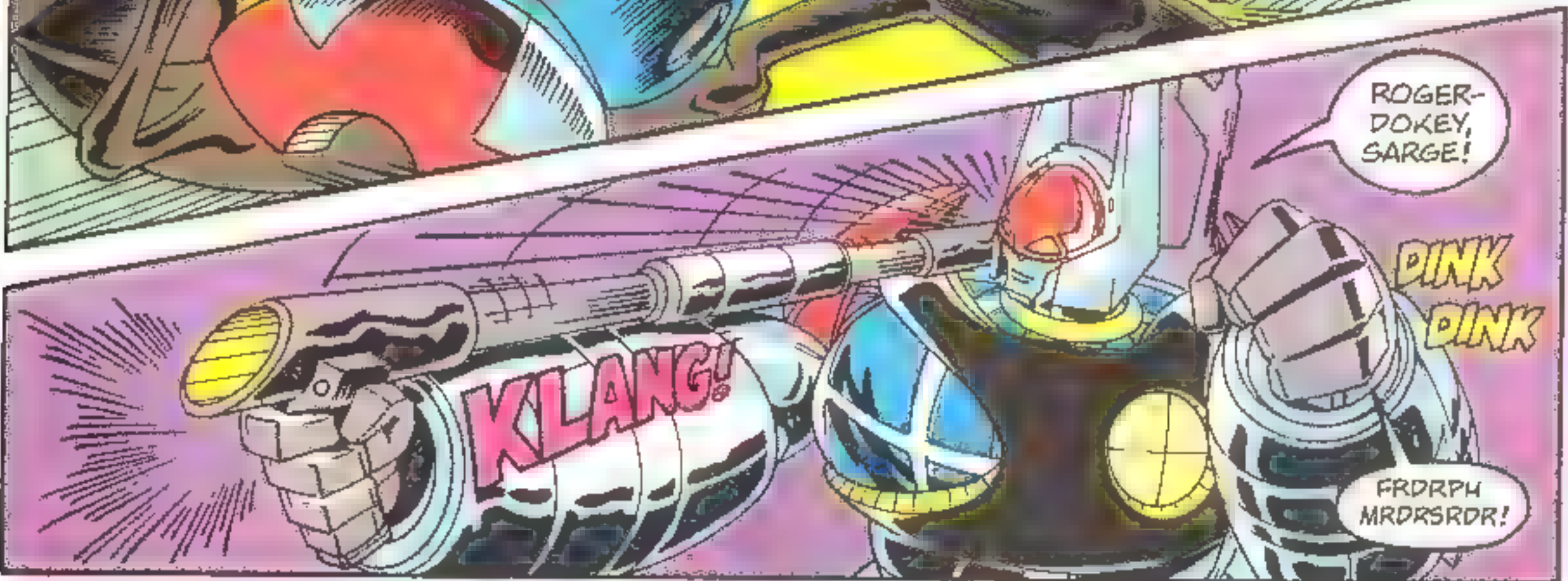
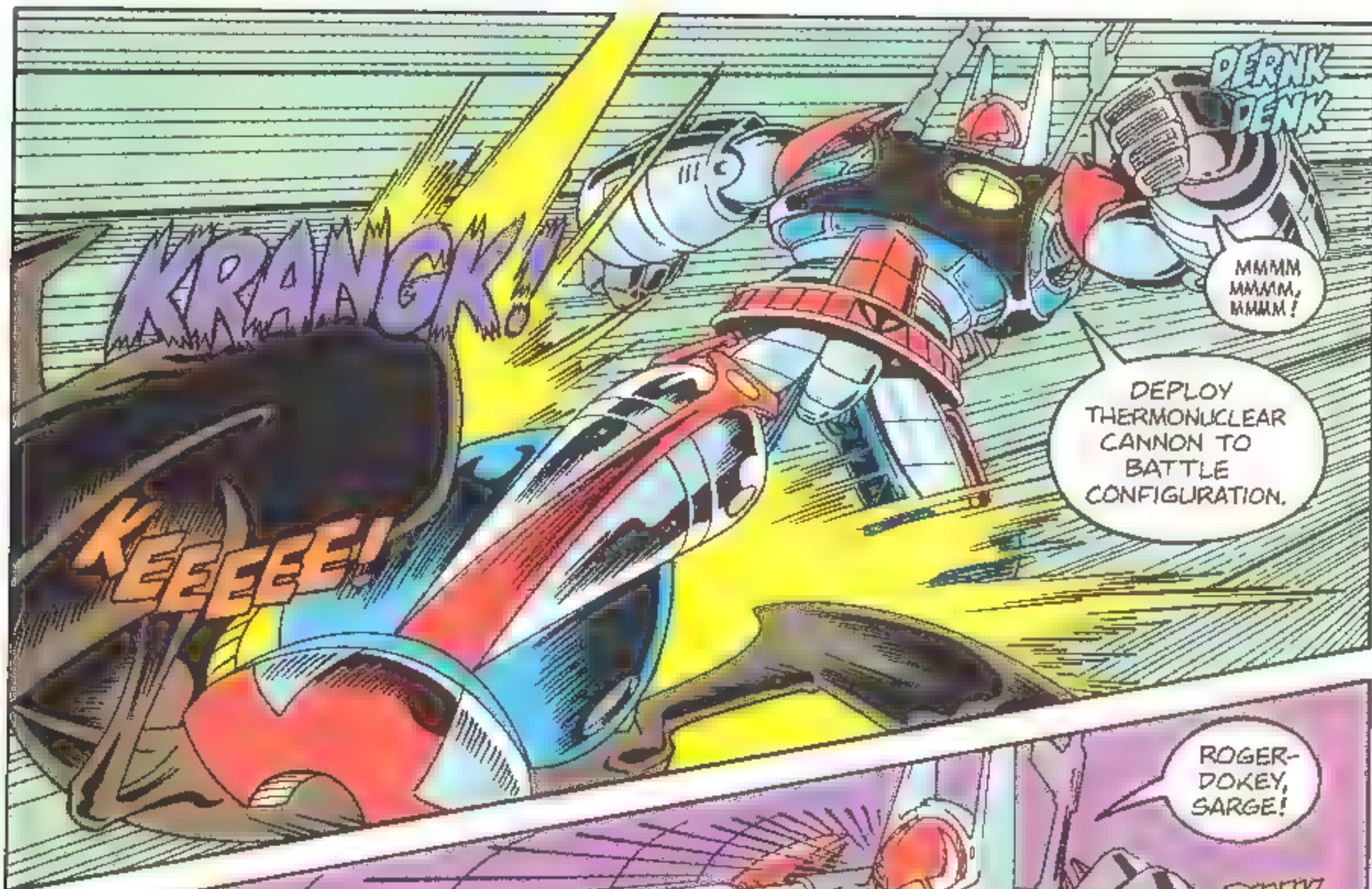
CIVILIANS AREN'T
SUPPOSED TO BE
IN A WAR-ZONE,
MS. WARREN.

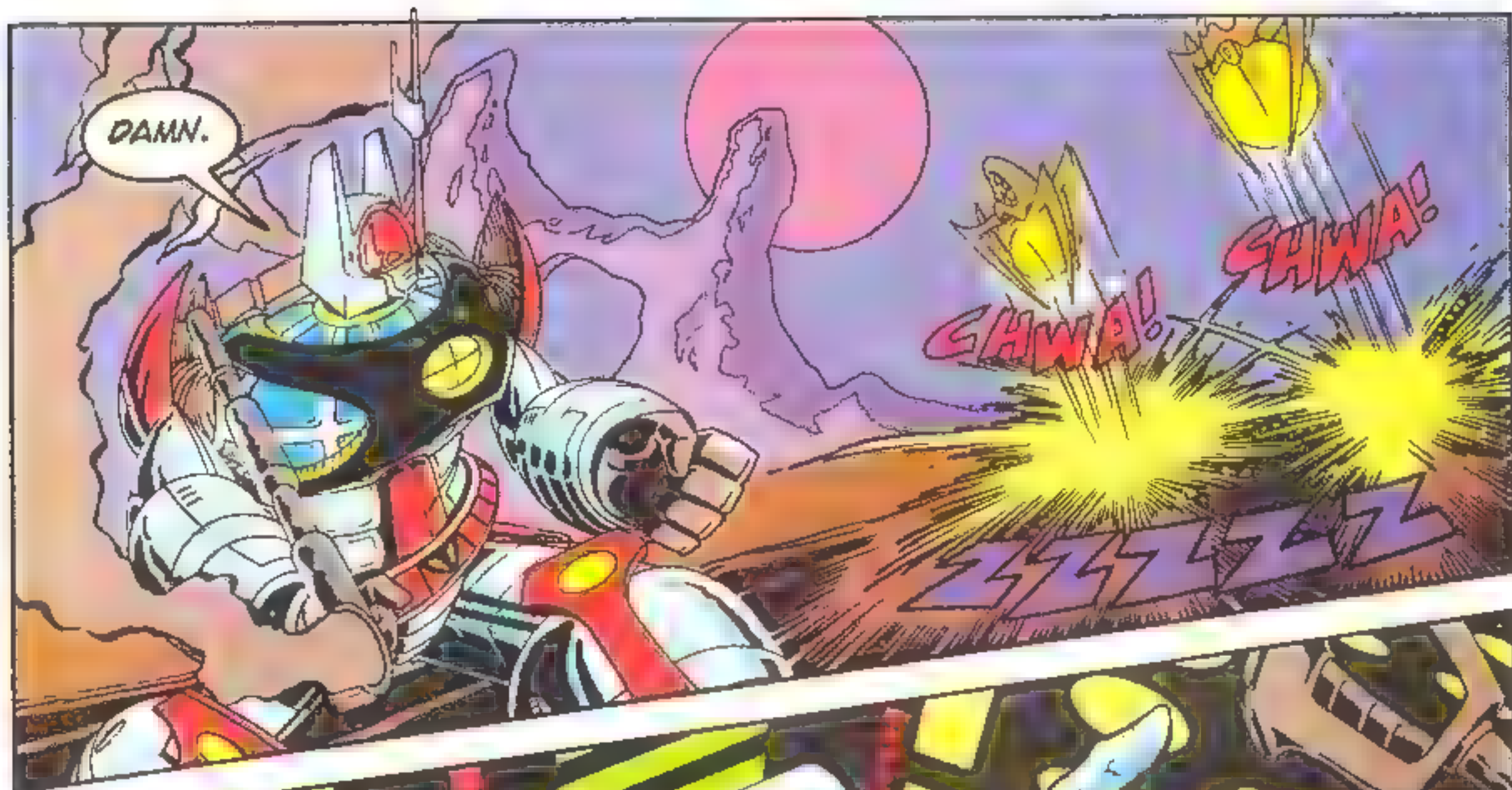
OH PUH-LEASE!
SPARE ME! FOR EIGHT
YEARS THE MILITARY
HAS SQUAWKED WAR
AND THEN SLAMMED A
LID ON EVERYTHING!

I DON'T BELIEVE
THERE REALLY IS A
WAR. HAVE YOU SEEN
ANY OF THIS SO-
CALLED ENEMY?
I HAVEN'T!



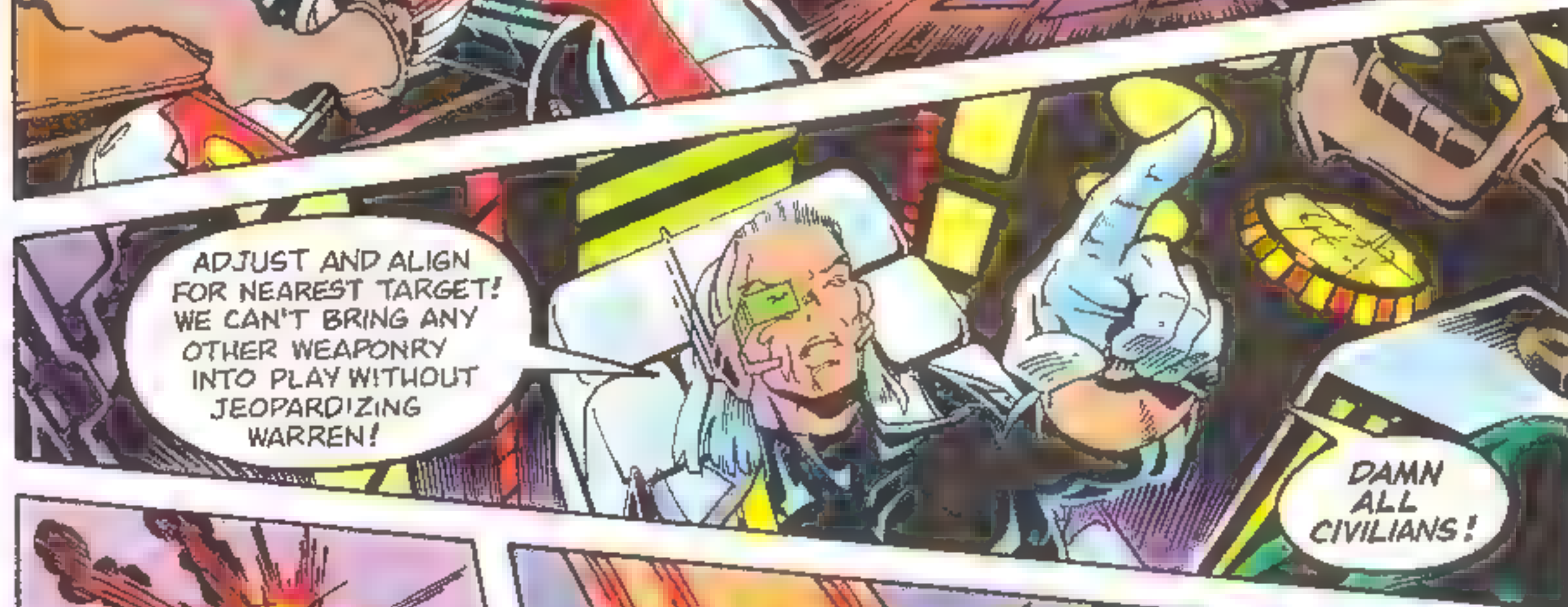
LOOK
OVER YOUR
SHOULDER.
POMRU! BATTLE
STATIONS!





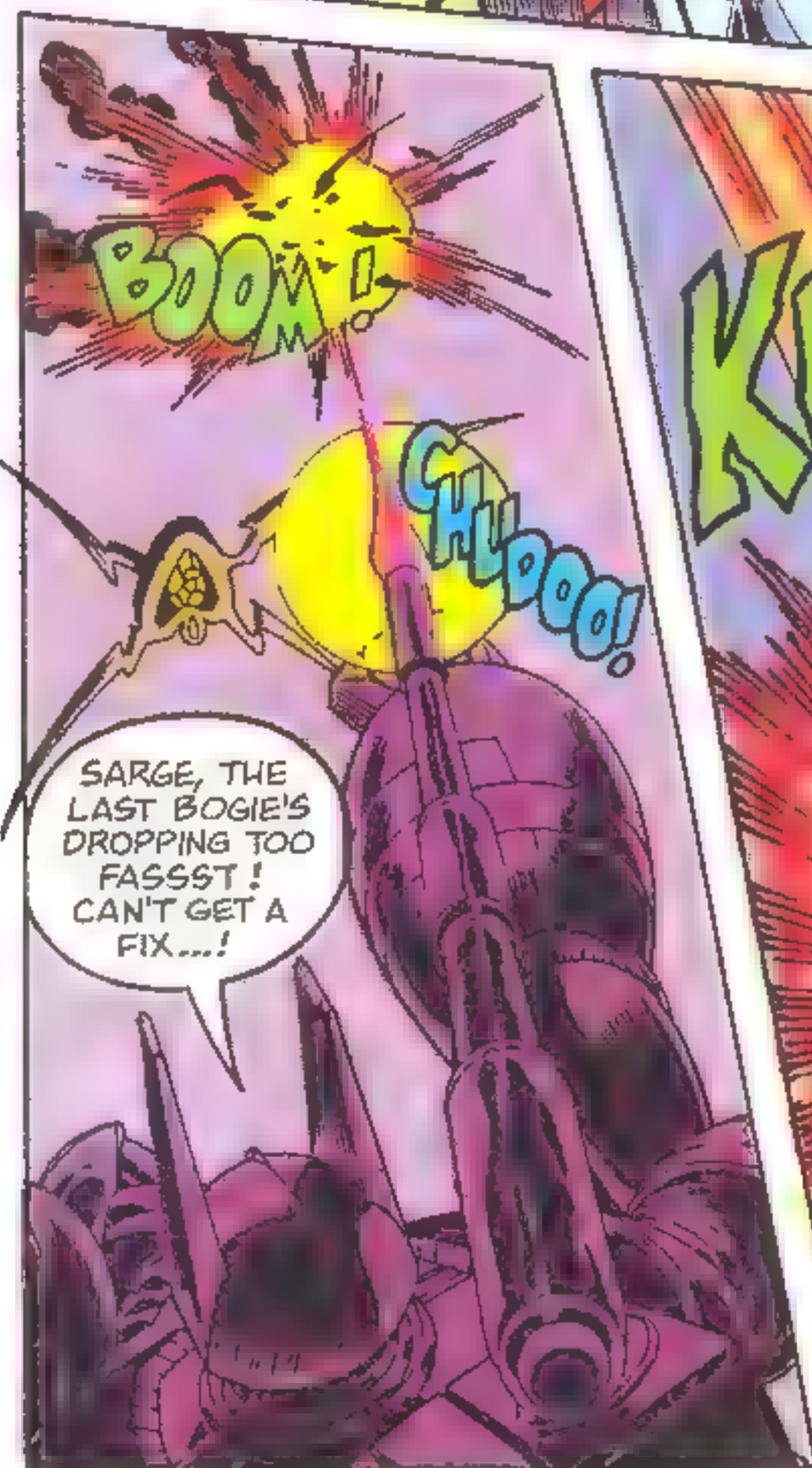
DAMN.

CHWA!
CHWA!

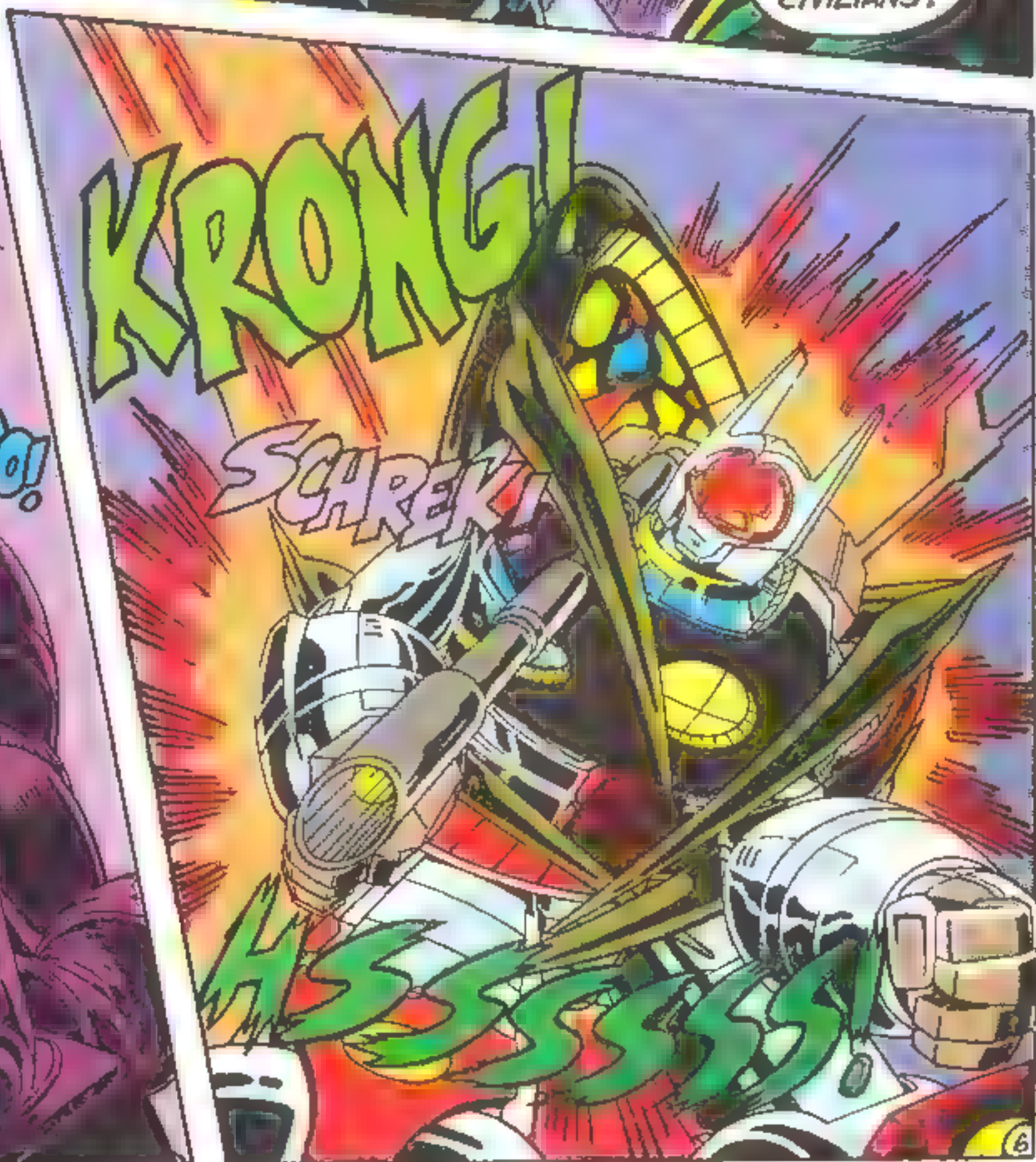


ADJUST AND ALIGN
FOR NEAREST TARGET!
WE CAN'T BRING ANY
OTHER WEAPONRY
INTO PLAY WITHOUT
JEOPARDIZING
WARREN!

DAMN
ALL
CIVILIANS!



SARGE, THE
LAST BOGIE'S
DROPPING TOO
FASST!
CAN'T GET A
FIX....!



KRONG!

SCHREK!



THERMOCANNON
GONE! WE'RE
PINNED!

GHOULIE'S
SECRETING SOME
KIND OF ACID!
GONNA BLISTER
THROUGH IF WE
DON'T PEEL IT
OFF, SARGE!

FIREBALL
INCOMING!

NO!
WAIT!

IT'S ONE OF
OUR HELLIONS!
HE'S RIDING A
HOTBOX! *

RDRR!
RGRDPH!

*HOTBOX--
SLANG FOR
A FIGHTER
ON FIRE.

BUHDOOM!
BUHDOOM!

FRANG!

MONKEY
OFF OUR
BACK,
SARGE!

UP AND AT 'EM,
POMRU! THAT FLYBOY
SAVED US BUT HE'S
HEADED FOR A
VERTICAL DESCENT!



WOWR, SARGE!
HOT-SHOT PULLED
UP HIS NOSE AT
THE LAST SECOND!
HE'LL WALK
AWAY!



DAMN YOU!
YOU'RE JUST
LIKE THAT
OAF ON...!

OH GAWD!
IS THAT
ONE OF...
THEM?



ALEXANDER
PATTON PRICE,
LIEUTENANT,
EARTH ELITE
FLIGHT COMMAND,
MADAM.

HIT BY ENEMY
ACK-ACK WHILST
FLYING ESCORT TO
THE STARBURSTER.
HAD TO DITCH
HERE.

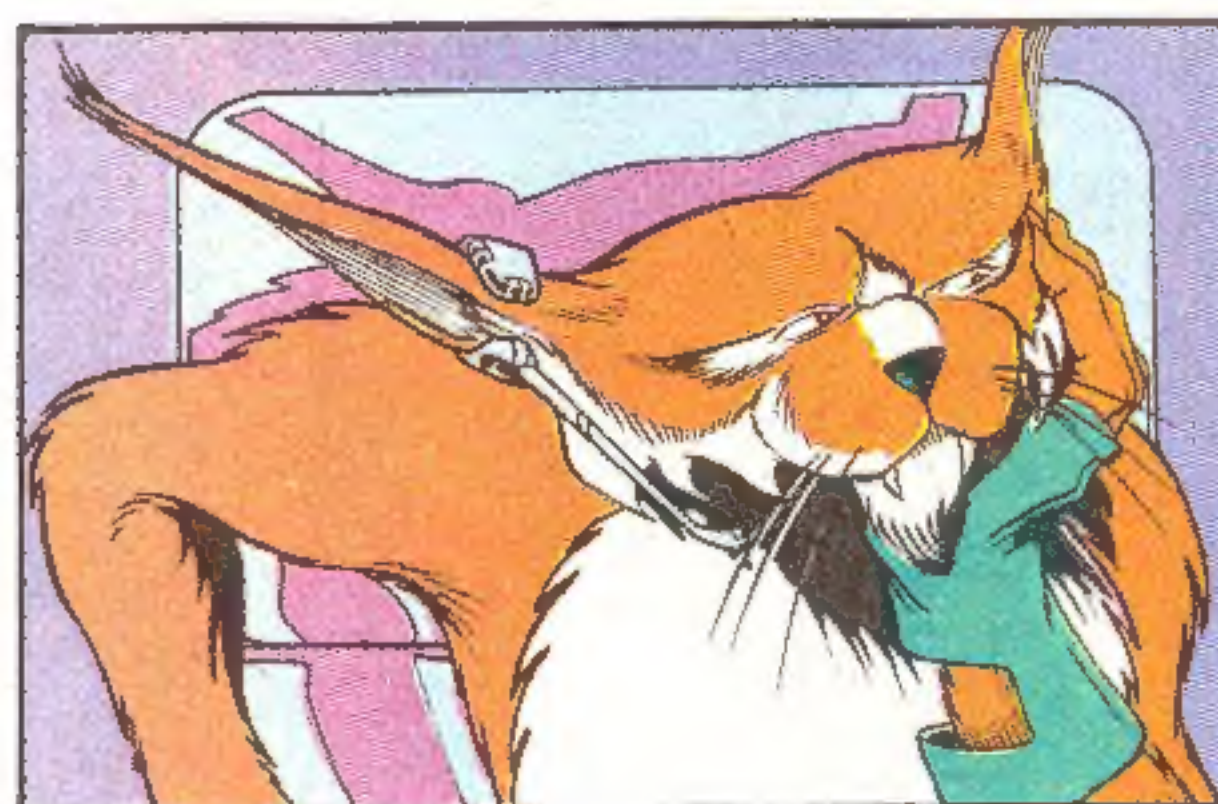
STARBURSTER?



DEVICE DESIGNED
TO TURN THE GAS-
GIANT FERGUSSON
INTO A NEW STAR.

HIGH COMMAND
BELIEVES IT WILL
DESTROY THE ENEMY.
IT WILL CERTAINLY
DESTROY ALL
PLANETARY BODIES
WITHIN A PARSEC,
INCLUDING THIS ONE.
AND US, OF COURSE.

I BELIEVE
WE HAVE
APPROXIMATELY
48 HOURS.



AWWR, HAIRBALLS!
JUST WHEN EVERYTHING
WAS LOOKING SPIFFY!

NEXT: THE SHATTERING
CLIMAX--
**ESCAPE
VELOCITY!**

FIRST NOTES

POINT OF PRIDE

In recent years, other comics publishers have been dutifully publishing the results of the annual Eagle Awards; so now it's our turn.

Named after the seminal British comics weekly, the Eagles are perhaps the most prestigious awards presented in the comic book medium. Given out annually since 1977, this year Eagles were organized and administered by Richard Burton and Nick Landau. Richard, until a few months ago, was an editor of 2000 A.D. (he's since moved on to a similar position with a computer and video games magazine), and Nick is co-honcho of — you guessed it — Eagle Comics.

Fans all over the world are eligible to vote, although the awards are presented on behalf of the comics fans of Great Britain.

(This would be as good a time as any to assert a bit of patriotic fervor: It would be nice if the comics fans of the United States would organize something as classy and as consistent as the Eagles. The Comics Buyers Guide has been making a great effort during the past two years — perhaps if we all support the CBG poll, publishers will put a "CBG Award Winner" blurb on their covers the way we have been putting "Eagle Award Winner" blurbs on our covers over the past several years.)

Given the outcome of this year's Eagles Awards, we'd be foolish not to publish the results. The polling was

FAVORITE PENCILLER
Howard Chaykin

FAVORITE INKER
Terry Austin

FAVORITE WRITER
Howard Chaykin

FAVORITE COMIC BOOK
American Flagg!

FAVORITE CHARACTER
Reuben Flagg

FAVORITE GROUP OR TEAM
The Teen Titans

FAVORITE VILLAIN
The Joker

FAVORITE SUPPORTING CHARACTER
Raul the Cat

CHARACTER MOST WORTHY OF OWN SERIES
The Rocketeer

FAVORITE STORY
American Flagg! #1-#3: "Hard Times"

FAVORITE NEW TITLE
American Flagg!

FAVORITE COVER
Camelot 3000 #9, by Brian Bolland

FAVORITE SPECIALIST PUBLICATION
The Comics Journal

THE ROLL OF HONOR
Jullus Schwartz

based upon 1983 comics — our first full year of comics publishing.

The above winners, obviously, were in the American comics category. Winners in the British comics division generally centered around *Warrior* magazine and writer **Alan Moore** — both praised in these pages a long, long time ago.

Congratulations to everyone. Best wishes to those who came in second and third place, including such close friends of ours as **Mike Grell**, **Mike Baron**, and even **Howard Chaykin** (who received two nominations for best cover and one for best inker). And if you think we're not damn proud ...

QUICK PLUG

I'd like to bring to your attention something of an unusual back-up story in **Grimjack** #6, on sale this month. Granted, the entire "Munden's Bar" series is unusual, but this particular story is a bit more so.

The story features Clonezone the Hilariator, of **Nexus** fame. And it was written and drawn by Nexus's **Mike Baron** and **Steve Rude**. Like all other Munden's Bar stories, it takes place in Cynosure — a place Nexus fans might be familiar with (there was a pretty strong reference to Cynosure in Nexus #6). It's a fun little story involving ex-convicts, double-dealing, and rock 'n' roll.

If you're a Nexus fan who, for some odd reason, isn't reading **Grimjack**, you should be sure to check this one out.

— Mike Gold

FIRST IN SEPTEMBER

American Flagg! #16 — **Howard Chaykin** has written and drawn the wildest barroom fight ever in comics, as **Reuben Flagg** takes on a bunch of rootin' tootin' Canadian Communist Cowboys. Meanwhile, back in Chicago, the new elections are gearing up for action!

Grimjack #6 — The Shadow Cops, part two: "Over the Line." For the first time, **Grimjack** and **Jericho Noleski** find themselves on the wrong side of the law, as **John Ostrander** and **Timothy Truman** serve up a multidimensional motorcycle chase that has to be read to be believed! Plus: Clonezone the Hilariator splits **Nexus** for a story in **Munden's Bar** by **Mike Baron** and **Steve Rude**.

Mars #11 — The penultimate issue in the current saga, "When the Dead Walk and the Living Don't," by **Mark Wheatley** and **Marc Hempel**. And the penultimate chapter of the very first **Dynamo Joe**



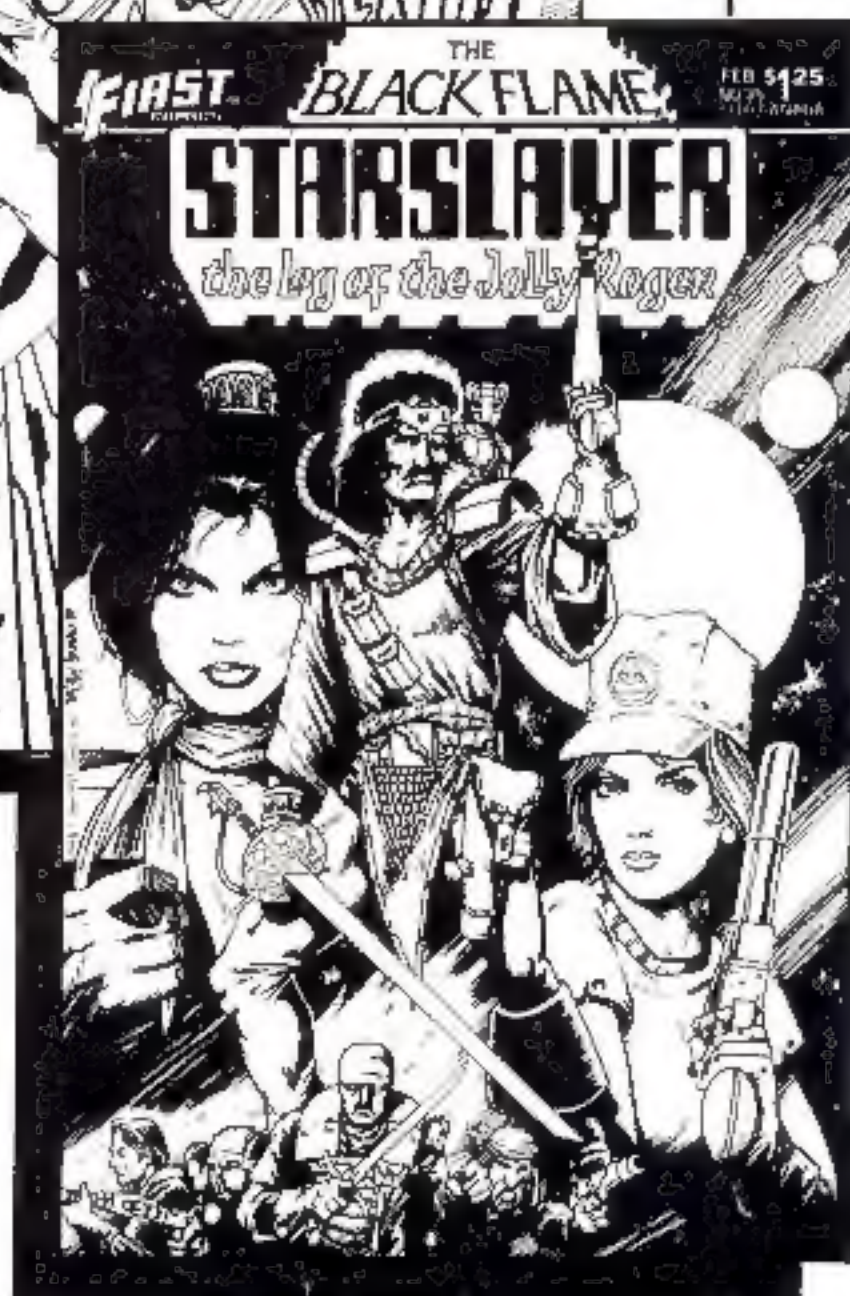
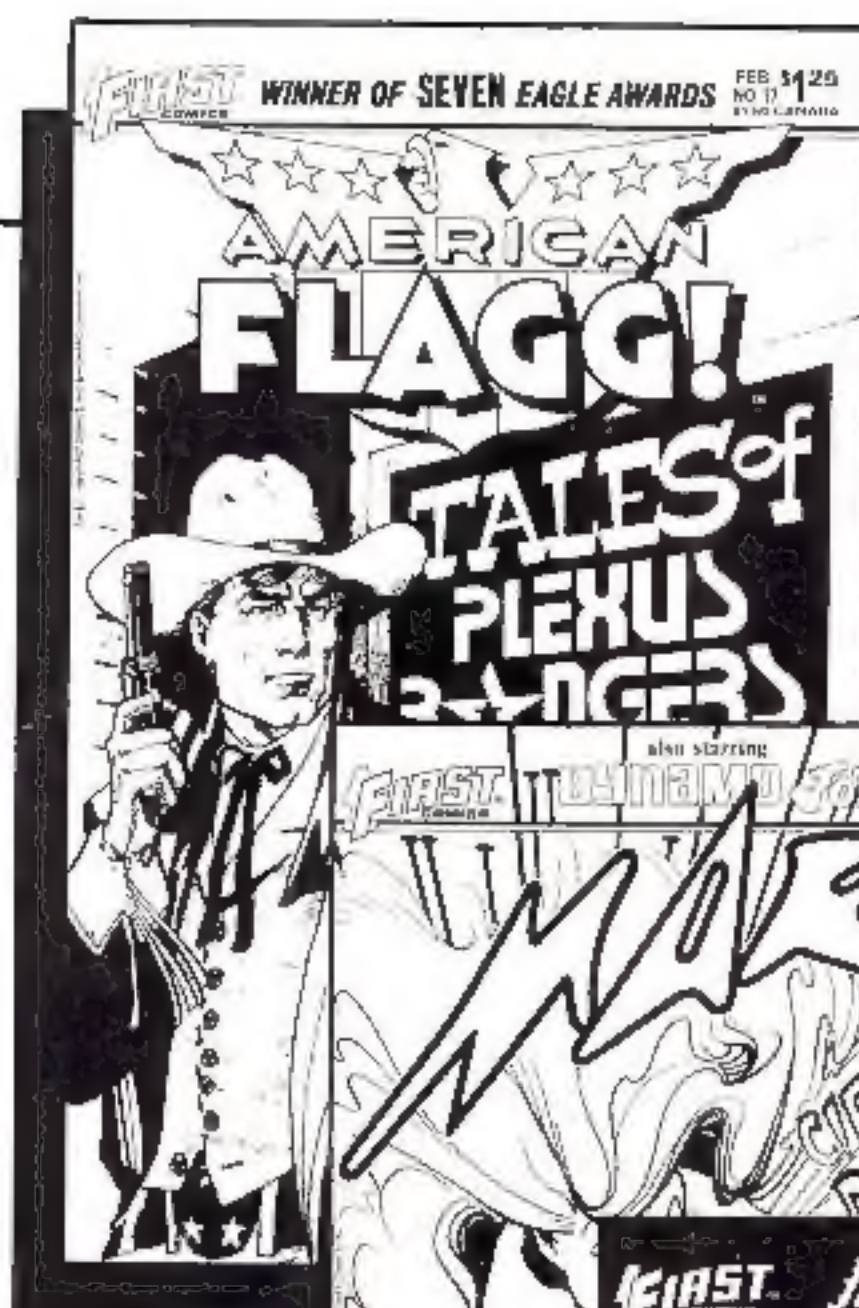
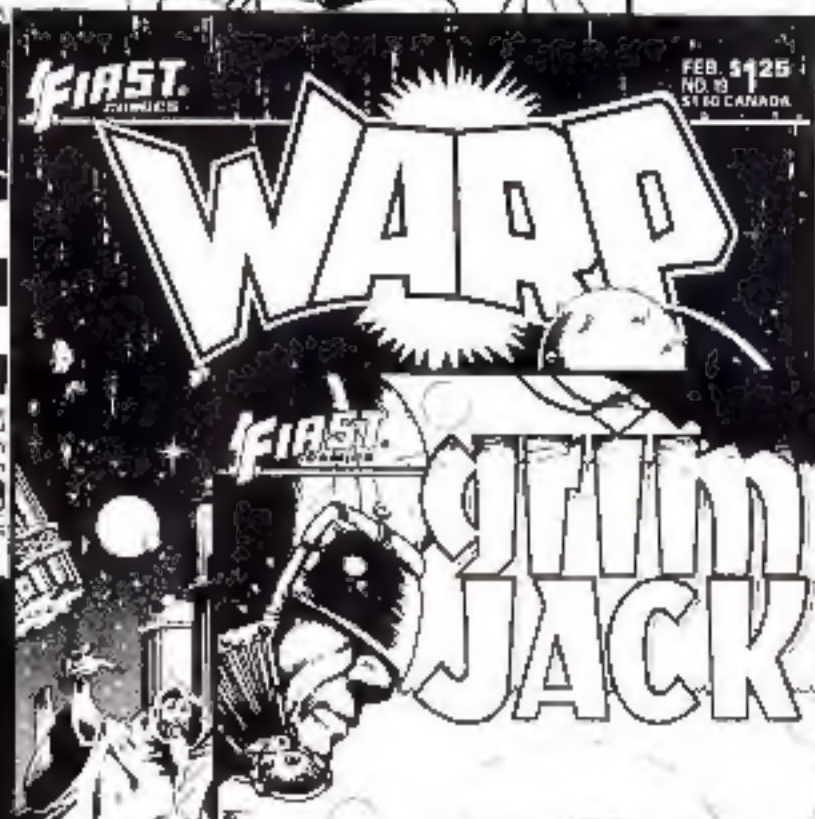
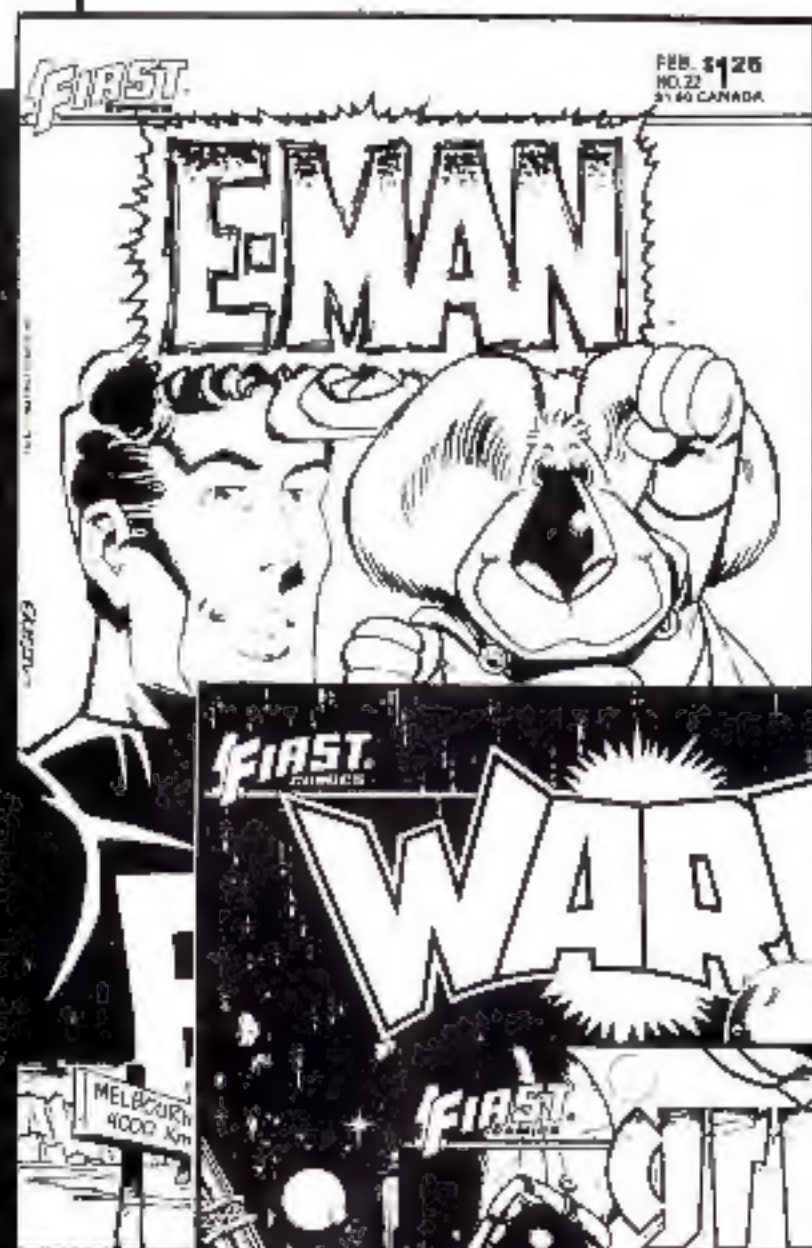
saga, "The Key to Survival," written by **John Ostrander** and drawn by **Doug Rice**!

Jon Sable, Freelance #20 — Jon is accidentally shot by a rookie cop, and writer/artist **Mike Grell**'s got a tough time keeping his hero alive. But what will happen to ... "The Rookie"?

The P.I.'s #1 (Limited Series) — **Michael Mauser** teams up with **Ms. Tree**, while **Ms. Tree's Max Collins** and **Terry Beatty** team up with **Mauser's Joe Slatoni**. And **Mike Grell** teams up with **Mickey Spillane**! A detective thriller in three parts!

Starslayer #24 — **John Ostrander**, **Timothy Truman**, and **Hilary Barta** take **Torin** and crew on a **Milton Caniff**-inspired "Glitch in Time!" to a place that looks an awful lot like China, circa 1935. And **Peter Gillis**, **Tom Sutton** and **Don Lomax** reveal — for the first time — the origin of **The Black Flame**!

THE FIRST CHOICE



**Don't Settle
For
Second Best**

**FIRST
COMICS**
COUNT ON US.